

CHAPTER II

10/019849

Preliminary Classification:

Proposed Class: **318**

Subclass:

NOTE: "All applicants are requested to include a preliminary classification on newly filed patent applications. The preliminary classification, preferably class and subclass designations, should be identified in the upper right-hand corner of the letter of transmittal accompanying the application papers, for example 'Proposed Class 2, subclass 129.'" M.P.E.P., § 601, 7th ed.

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER
TO THE UNITED STATES ELECTED OFFICE (EO/US)
(ENTRY INTO U.S. NATIONAL PHASE UNDER CHAPTER II)**

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/EP00/07622INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
5 AUG. 2000PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
22 SEP 1999 & 15 OCT. 1999TITLE OF INVENTION METHOD FOR REGULATING THE ROTATIONAL SPEED OF A MOTOR AND A
MOTOR FOR CARRYING OUT A METHOD OF THIS TYPE

APPLICANT(S)

Roland DIETERLE, Alexander HAHN and Hermann RAPPENECKER**Box PCT****Assistant Commissioner for Patents****Washington D.C. 20231****ATTENTION: EO/US****CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.8(a) and 1.10***

(When using Express Mail, the Express Mail label number is **mandatory**;
Express Mail certification is optional.)

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

MAILING

- × ☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)**37 C.F.R. § 1.10 ***

- ☐ with sufficient postage as first class mail.

× ☒ as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"Mailing Label No. EL762542345US (mandatory)**TRANSMISSION**

- ☐ facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, (703) _____

Date: 11/1/01

Signature

Ann Van Buskirk
Ann Van Buskirk

(type or print name of person certifying)

* Only the date of filing (§ 1.6) will be the date used in a patent term adjustment calculation, although the date on any certificate of mailing or transmission under § 1.8 continues to be taken into account in determining timeliness. See § 1.703(f). Consider "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" (§ 1.10) or facsimile transmission (§ 1.6(d)) for the reply to be accorded the earliest possible filing date for patent term adjustment calculations.

(Transmittal Letter to the United States Elected Office (EO/US) [13-18]—page 1 of 9)

NOTE: To avoid abandonment of the application, the applicant shall furnish to the USPTO, not later than 20 months from the priority date: (1) a copy of the international application, unless it has been previously communicated by the International Bureau or unless it was originally filed in the USPTO; and (2) the basic national fee (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.492(a)). The 30-month time limit may not be extended. 37 C.F.R. § 1.495.

WARNING: Where the items are those which can be submitted to complete the entry of the international application into the national phase are subsequent to 30 months from the priority date the application is still considered to be in the international state and if mailing procedures are utilized to obtain a date the express mail procedure of 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 must be used (since international application papers are not covered by an ordinary certificate of mailing—See 37 C.F.R. § 1.8.

NOTE: Documents and fees must be clearly identified as a submission to enter the national state under 35 U.S.C. § 371 otherwise the submission will be considered as being made under 35 U.S.C. § 111. 37 C.F.R. § 1.494(f).

- I. Applicant herewith submits to the United States Elected Office (EO/US) the following items under 35 U.S.C. § 371:
- ☒ This express request to immediately begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. § 371(f)).
 - ☐ The U.S. National Fee (35 U.S.C. § 371(c)(1)) and other fees (37 C.F.R. § 1.492) as indicated below:

2. Fees

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CLAIMS FEE	(1) FOR	(2) NUMBER FILED	(3) NUMBER EXTRA	(4) RATE	(5) CALCULATIONS
<input type="checkbox"/> *	TOTAL CLAIMS	41 - 20 =	21	× \$18.00 =	\$ 378.00
	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	3 - 3 =	0	× 84.00 =	0
	MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable) + \$270.00				
BASIC FEE**	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. PTO WAS INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION AUTHORITY Where an international preliminary examination fee as set forth in § 1.482 has been paid on the international application to the U.S. PTO: <input type="checkbox"/> and the international preliminary examination report states that the criteria of novelty, inventive step (non-obviousness) and industrial activity, as defined in PCT Article 33(1) to (4) have been satisfied for all the claims presented in the application entering the national stage (37 C.F.R. § 1.492(a)(4)) \$100.00 <input type="checkbox"/> and the above requirements are not met (37 C.F.R. § 1.492(a)(1)) \$690.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. PTO WAS NOT INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION AUTHORITY Where no international preliminary examination fee as set forth in § 1.482 has been paid to the U.S. PTO, and payment of an international search fee as set forth in § 1.445(a)(2) to the U.S. PTO: <input type="checkbox"/> has been paid (37 C.F.R. § 1.492(a)(2)) \$710.00 <input type="checkbox"/> has not been paid (37 C.F.R. § 1.492(a)(3)) \$1000.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> where a search report on the international application has been prepared by the European Patent Office or the Japanese Patent Office (37 C.F.R. § 1.492(a)(5)) \$890.00				
	Total of above Calculations				= \$1268.00
SMALL ENTITY	Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Assertion must be made. (note 37 C.F.R. § 1.27)				-
	Subtotal				\$1268.00
	Total National Fee				\$1268.00
	Fee for recording the enclosed assignment document \$40.00 (37 C.F.R. § 1.21(h)). (See Item 13 below). See attached "ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET".				40.00
TOTAL	Total Fees enclosed				\$1308.00

*See attached Preliminary Amendment Reducing the Number of Claims.

- ☒ Attached is a ☒ check ☐ money order in the amount of \$ 1308.00 # 1777
- ☒ Authorization is hereby made to charge ~~the amount of \$~~ any fee deficiency
- ☒ to Deposit Account No. 23-0442
- ☐ to Credit card as shown on the attached credit card information authorization form PTO-2038.

WARNING: Credit card information should **not** be included on this form as it may become public.

- ☒ Charge any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment in the manner authorized above.

A duplicate of this paper is attached.

****WARNING:** "To avoid abandonment of the application the applicant shall furnish to the United States Patent and Trademark Office not later than the expiration of 30 months from the priority date: * * * (2) the basic national fee (see § 1.492(a)). The 30-month time limit may not be extended." 37 C.F.R. § 1.495(b).

WARNING: If the translation of the international application and/or the oath or declaration have not been submitted by the applicant within thirty (30) months from the priority date, such requirements may be met within a time period set by the Office. 37 C.F.R. § 1.495(b)(2). The payment of the surcharge set forth in § 1.492(e) is required as a condition for accepting the oath or declaration later than thirty (30) months after the priority date. The payment of the processing fee set forth in § 1.492(f) is required for acceptance of an English translation later than thirty (30) months after the priority date. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in abandonment of the application. The provisions of § 1.136 apply to the period which is set. Notice of Jan. 3, 1993, 1147 O.G. 29 to 40.

☐ **Assertion of Small Entity Status**

☐ **Applicant hereby asserts status as a small entity under 37 C.F.R. § 1.27.**

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.27(c) deals with the assertion of small entity status, whether by a written specific declaration thereof or by payment as a small entity of the basic filing fee or the fee for the entry into the national phase as states:

"(c) Assertion of small entity status. Any party (person, small business concern or nonprofit organization) should make a determination, pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section, of entitlement to be accorded small entity status based on the definitions set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, and must, in order to establish small entity status for the purpose of paying small entity fees, actually make an assertion of entitlement to small entity status, in the manner set forth in paragraphs (c)(1) or (c)(3) of this section, in the application or patent in which such small entity fees are to be paid.

(1) Assertion by writing. Small entity status may be established by a written assertion of entitlement to small entity status. A written assertion must:

- (i) Be clearly identifiable;
- (ii) Be signed (see paragraph (c)(2) of this section); and
- (iii) Convey the concept of entitlement to small entity status, such as by stating that applicant is a small entity, or that small entity status is entitled to be asserted for the application or patent. While no specific words or wording are required to assert small entity status, the intent to assert small entity status must be clearly indicated in order to comply with the assertion requirement.

(2) Parties who can sign and file the written assertion. The written assertion can be signed by:

- (i) One of the parties identified in §§ 1.33(b) (e.g., an attorney or agent registered with the Office), §§ 3.73(b) of this chapter notwithstanding, who can also file the written assertion;
- (ii) At least one of the individuals identified as an inventor (even though a §§ 1.63 executed oath or declaration has not been submitted), notwithstanding §§ 1.33(b)(4), who can also file the written assertion pursuant to the exception under §§ 1.33(b) of this part; or
- (iii) An assignee of an undivided part interest, notwithstanding §§ 1.33(b)(3) and 3.73(b) of this chapter, but the partial assignee cannot file the assertion without resort to a party identified under §§ 1.33(b) of this part.

(3) Assertion by payment of the small entity basic filing or basic national fee. The payment, by any party, of the exact amount of one of the small entity basic filing fees set forth in §§ 1.16(a), (f), (g), (h), or (k), or one of the small entity basic national fees set forth in §§ 1.492(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), or (a)(5), will be treated as a written assertion of entitlement to small entity status even if the type of basic filing or basic national fee is inadvertently selected in error.

(i) If the Office accords small entity status based on payment of a small entity basic filing or basic national fee under paragraph (c)(3) of this section that is not applicable to that application, any balance of the small entity fee that is applicable to that application will be due along with the appropriate surcharge set forth in §§ 1.16(e), or §§ 1.16(f).

(ii) The payment of any small entity fee other than those set forth in paragraph (c)(3) of this section (whether in the exact fee amount or not) will not be treated as a written assertion of entitlement to small entity status and will not be sufficient to establish small entity status in an application or a patent."

3. ☒ A copy of the International application as filed (35 U.S.C. § 371(c)(2)):

NOTE: Section 1.495 (b) was amended to require that the basic national fee and a copy of the international application must be filed with the Office by 30 months from the priority date to avoid abandonment. "The International Bureau normally provides the copy of the international application to the Office in accordance with PCT Article 20. At the same time, the International Bureau notifies applicant of the communication to the Office. In accordance with PCT Rule 47.1, that notice shall be accepted by all designated offices as conclusive evidence that the communication has duly taken place. Thus, if the applicant desires to enter the national stage, the applicant normally need only check to be sure the notice from the International Bureau has been received and then pay the basic national fee by 30 months from the priority date." Notice of Jan. 7, 1993, 1147 O.G. 29 to 40, at 35-36. See item 14c below.

- a. ☒ is transmitted herewith.
- b. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed with the United States Receiving Office.
- c. ☐ has been transmitted
- i. ☐ by the International Bureau.

Date of mailing of the application (from form PCT/1B/308):

- ii. ☐ by applicant on _____ (Date)

4. ☒ A translation of the International application into the English language (35 U.S.C. § 371(c)(2)):

- a. ☒ is transmitted herewith.
- b. ☐ is not required as the application was filed in English.
- c. ☐ was previously transmitted by applicant on _____. (Date)
- d. ☐ will follow.

5. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. § 371(c)(3)):

NOTE: The Notice of January 7, 1993 points out that 37 C.F.R. § 1.495(a) was amended to clarify the existing and continuing practice that PCT Article 19 amendments must be submitted by 30 months from the priority date and this deadline may not be extended. The Notice further advises that: "The failure to do so will not result in loss of the subject matter of the PCT Article 19 amendments. Applicant may submit that subject matter in a preliminary amendment filed under section 1.121. In many cases, filing an amendment under section 1.121 is preferable since grammatical or idiomatic errors may be corrected." 1147 O.G. 29-40, at 36.

- a. ☐ are transmitted herewith.
 b. ☐ have been transmitted
 i. ☐ by the International Bureau.

Date of mailing of the amendment (from form PCT/1B/308):

- ii. ☐ by applicant on _____. (Date)

- c. ☒ have not been transmitted as

- i. ☒ applicant chose not to make amendments under PCT Article 19.
 Date of mailing of Search Report (from form PCT/ISA/210.):

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- ii. ☐ the time limit for the submission of amendments has not yet expired. The amendments or a statement that amendments have not been made will be transmitted before the expiration of the time limit under PCT Rule 46.1.

6. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (38 U.S.C. § 371(c)(3)):

- a. ☐ is transmitted herewith.
 b. ☐ is not required as the amendments were made in the English language.
 c. ☒ has not been transmitted for reasons indicated at point 5(c) above.

7. ☐ A copy of the international examination report (PCT/IPEA/409)

- ☐ is transmitted herewith.
☐ is not required as the application was filed with the United States Receiving Office.

8. ☐ Annex(es) to the international preliminary examination report

- a. ☐ is/are transmitted herewith.
 b. ☐ is/are not required as the application was filed with the United States Receiving Office.

9. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the international preliminary examination report

- a. ☐ is transmitted herewith.
 b. ☐ is not required as the annexes are in the English language.

10. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor (35 U.S.C. § 371(c)(4)) complying with 35 U.S.C. § 115
- a. ☐ was previously submitted by applicant on _____. (Date)
 - b. ☒ is submitted herewith, and such oath or declaration
 - i. ☒ is attached to the application.
 - ii. ☐ identifies the application and any amendments under PCT Article 19 that were transmitted as stated in points 3(b) or 3(c) and 5(b); and states that they were reviewed by the inventor as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.70.
 - c. ☐ will follow.

II. Other document(s) or information included:

11. ☒ An International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210) or Declaration under PCT Article 17(2)(a):
- a. ☒ is transmitted herewith.
 - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
Date of mailing (from form PCT/IB/308): 11/21/2000
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was searched by the United States International Searching Authority.
 - d. ☐ will be transmitted promptly upon request.
 - e. ☐ has been submitted by applicant on _____. (Date)

12. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98:
- a. ☒ is transmitted herewith.

Also transmitted herewith is/are:

- ☒ Form PTO-1449 (PTO/SB/08A and 08B).
- ☒ Copies of citations listed.
- b. ☐ will be transmitted within THREE MONTHS of the date of submission of requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 371(c).
- c. ☐ was previously submitted by applicant on _____. (Date)

13. ☒ An assignment document is transmitted herewith for recording.
- A separate ☒ "COVER SHEET FOR ASSIGNMENT (DOCUMENT) ACCOMPANYING NEW PATENT APPLICATION" or ☐ FORM PTO 1595 is also attached.

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14. ☒ Additional documents:
- a. ☐ Copy of request (PCT/RO/101)
 - b. ☒ International Publication No. WO 01/22095 A1
 - i. ☒ Specification, claims and drawing
 - ii. ☐ Front page only
 - c. ☒ Preliminary amendment (37 C.F.R. § 1.121)
 - d. ☐ Other
- _____

15. ☒ The above checked items are being transmitted
- a. ☒ before 30 months from any claimed priority date.
 - b. ☐ after 30 months.
16. ☐ Certain requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 371 were previously submitted by the applicant on _____, namely:
- _____

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE ADDITIONAL FEES

WARNING: Accurately count claims, especially multiple dependant claims, to avoid unexpected high charges if extra claims are authorized.

NOTE: "A written request may be submitted in an application that is an authorization to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. An authorization to charge all required fees, fees under § 1.17, or all required extension of time fees will be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission. Submission of the fee set forth in § 1.17(a) will also be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in any concurrent reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission." 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

NOTE: "Amounts of twenty-five dollars or less will not be returned unless specifically requested within a reasonable time, nor will the payer be notified of such amounts; amounts over twenty-five dollars may be returned by check or, if requested, by credit to a deposit account." 37 C.F.R. § 1.26(a).

☒ Please charge, in the manner authorized above, the following additional fees that may be required by this paper and during the entire pendency of this application:

☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.492(a)(1), (2), (3), and (4) (filing fees)

WARNING: Because failure to pay the national fee within 30 months without extension (37 C.F.R. § 1.495(b)(2)) results in abandonment of the application, it would be best to always check the above box.

(Transmittal Letter to the United States Elected Office (EO/US) [13-18]—page 8 of 9)

☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.492(b), (c) and (d) (presentation of extra claims)

NOTE: Because additional fees for excess or multiple dependent claims not paid on filing or on later presentation must only be paid or these claims cancelled by amendment prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the PTO in any notice of fee deficiency (37 C.F.R. § 1.492(d)), it might be best not to authorize the PTO to charge additional claim fees, except possible when dealing with amendments after final action.

☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (application processing fees)

☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1)-(5) (extension fees pursuant to § 1.136(a).

☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.18 (issue fee at or before mailing of Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.311(b))

NOTE: Where an authorization to charge the issue fee to a deposit account has been filed before the mailing of a Notice of Allowance, the issue fee will be automatically charged to the deposit account at the time of mailing the notice of allowance. 37 C.F.R. § 1.311(b).

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(b) requires "Notification of any change in loss of entitlement to small entity status must be filed in the application . . . prior to paying, or at the time of paying . . . issue fee." From the wording of 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(b): (a) notification of change of status must be made even if the fee is paid as "other than a small entity" and (b) no notification is required if the change is to another small entity.

☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.492(e) and (f) (surcharge fees for filing the declaration and/or filing an English translation of an International Application later than 30 months after the priority date).

Milton Oliver

SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

Milton Oliver

(type or print name of practitioner)

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531 Rec'd PCT/A 01 NOV 2001

IN THE U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: DIETERLE et al.

Serial #: 09/_____ = § 371 of PCT/EP00/07622

Filed: 1 NOV. 2001 (HEREWITH) Att. Docket #: 870-3-139

Title: METHOD FOR REGULATING THE ROTATIONAL SPEED OF A MOTOR
AND A MOTOR FOR CARRYING OUT A METHOD OF THIS TYPE

Art Unit: 2830 Examiner:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO PCT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

1 NOV. 2001

Sir:

Prior to counting the claims,
please amend the application as follows:
IN THE SPECIFICATION:
Cancel pages 1-3, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 20 and
replace by the enclosed Substitute Sheets.

"Express Mail" Mailing Label No. EL 762 542 345 US
Date of Deposit: NOV. 1, 2001

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with
the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to
Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated
above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents,
BOX PCT EO/US, Washington, D.C. 20231.


Ann Van Buskirk

TELETYPE SHEET

IN THE CLAIMS:

PLEASE CANCEL CLAIMS 1-41 AND ADD THE FOLLOWING CLAIMS:

42. A method of regulating the rotation speed, of a motor having a digital rotation speed controller, which motor, during operation, furnishes an actual-value signal for the rotation speed, in the form of a rotation speed frequency signal, toward a target rotation speed,

comprising the steps of:

in a first time segment, obtaining from the rotation speed frequency signal, a first numerical frequency value that characterizes the rotation speed of the motor;

in a second time segment that is substantially simultaneous with the first time segment, obtaining, from a target value frequency signal, a second numerical frequency value that characterizes the frequency of the target value frequency signal; and

by means of the first and second numerical frequency values, regulating, using the digital speed controller, the rotation speed of the motor toward a rotation speed that is associated with the target value frequency signal according to a predefined mathematical relationship.

43. The method according to claim 42, further comprising,

in order to obtain said first and second numerical frequency values, measuring a time interval between defined events of the respective frequency signal.

44. The method according to claim 43, wherein said time interval measuring comprises measuring a time interval between edges of the respective frequency signal.

45. The method according to claim 43, further comprising using an identical time standard for time measurement for

obtaining the first numerical frequency value and for time measurement for obtaining the second numerical frequency value.

46. The method according to claim 43, of measuring the frequency of a frequency signal which, at a constant frequency, comprises a fixed number of events per unit time, selected from the group consisting of signal pulses and signal edges,

comprising the steps of:

- a) at a first predetermined instant, initiating measurement of a frequency datum;
- b) ascertaining a second instant, at which an event of the frequency signal subsequent to the first predetermined instant occurs;
- c) counting the number of events of the frequency signal subsequent to the second instant;
- d) at a third predetermined instant, initiating termination of measurement of the frequency datum;
- e) ascertaining a fourth instant, at which an event of the frequency signal subsequent to the third predetermined instant occurs; and
- f) calculating the frequency datum from the time interval between the second instant and fourth instant, and from the number of events of the frequency signal counted between said instants.

47. The method according to claim 46, wherein said step of ascertaining the fourth instant comprises using the next event of the frequency signal as the event subsequent to the third predetermined instant.

48. The method according to claim 46, further comprising, for ascertaining the fourth instant, selecting, as the event subsequent to the third predetermined instant, that next event of the frequency signal at which the number of events since the second instant is equal to a product $a * N$, where a and N are whole numbers, of which one is equal to at least 1 and the other is equal to at least 2.

49. The method according to claim 48, wherein, in the case of a rotation speed frequency signal (f), the number N corresponds to a fixed number of events per revolution of the rotor.

50. The method according to claim 46, further comprising continuously measuring said first and second numerical frequency values.

51. The method according to claim 50, wherein the first predetermined instants of successive measurements have defined time offsets (T_A); and

wherein the third predetermined instants each have a substantially constant time offset from the associated first predetermined instants.

52. The method according to claim 50, wherein the third predetermined instant of a first measurement corresponds to the first predetermined instant of a second measurement subsequent thereto.

53. The method according to claim 52, wherein the fourth instant of a first measurement corresponds to the second instant of a second measurement subsequent thereto.

54. The method according to claim 46, further comprising calculating a frequency datum by dividing the number (N) of events of the frequency signal between the second and fourth instants by the time interval (Δt) between said second and fourth instants.

55. The method according to claim 54, further comprising the step of multiplying the rotation speed datum by multiplication with a constant factor.

56. The method according to claim 55, further comprising selecting the constant factor such that the rotation speed datum substantially corresponds to a conventional rotation speed indication.

57. The method according to claim 54, further comprising dividing a numerator proportional to the number of pulses between the second and fourth instants by a denominator proportional to the time interval between the second and fourth instants, obtaining, as a result, an integral frequency datum and a remainder; and

using the remainder by adding it to the numerator of the subsequent measurement.

58. A method of obtaining a datum concerning the rotation speed of a rotor, according to claim 46, further comprising the steps of:

a) during a first measurement period (T_{M1}), counting the number (N) of events of the rotation speed signal (f);

b) measuring the time duration (Δt) of the first measurement period (T_{M1});

c) performing an integral division ("div") in which the number of events during the first measurement period (T_{M1}) is the numerator and the time duration of the first measurement period (T_{M1}) is the denominator, thereby obtaining a first integral rotation speed datum and a remainder (S_{372} ; S_{472}); and

d) during a subsequent measurement, adding said remainder (REM_n_OLD ; $REM_n_s_OLD$) to the numerator in a subsequent integral division forming part of said subsequent measurement.

59. The method according to claim 58, wherein the number (N) of events prior to the integral division (S_{372} ; S_{472}) is multiplied by a constant factor that is greater than 1, in order to obtain a result of the integral division that is large in relation to the remainder (REM_n ; REM_n_s).

60. The method according to claim 59, wherein the constant factor is a power of two (2^h ; 2^{h_s}).

61. The method according to claim 60, wherein the exponent (h ; h_s) of the power of two is an adjustable variable.

62. An apparatus for regulating rotation speed in a device having a rotor, comprising
a sensor (61) which furnishes a rotation speed signal (f) indicating a defined number of events for each revolution of the rotor,

a source (23) of control signals,

a counter (INT_CNT_f) which counts events indicated by the rotation speed signal (f); and

a program-controlled apparatus (23) for analyzing the aforesaid signals by executing the following steps:

a) initiating measurement of a rotation speed datum in response to a first control signal;

b) ascertaining a first instant, at which an event of the rotation speed signal (f) subsequent to the first control signal occurs;

c) counting the number of subsequent events of the rotation speed signal (f) in the counter (INT_CNT_f) for events of the rotation speed signal (f);

d) initiating termination of measurement of the rotation speed datum in response to a second control signal;

e) ascertaining a second instant, at which an event of the rotation speed signal (f) subsequent to the second control signal occurs;

f) calculating a rotation speed datum from the time interval ($\Delta t_{MEAS_f(175-177)}$) between the first instant (161) and second instant (163), and from the number (N) of events of the rotation speed signal (f) between said two instants; and

g) using the thus-calculated rotation speed datum in regulating rotation speed.

63. The apparatus according to claim 62, wherein the source of the control signals comprises a timer (TIMERØ).

64. The apparatus according to claim 63, wherein the timer (TIMER0) is configured so as to trigger interrupt operations (TIMER0 Interrupt) as control signals.

65. The apparatus according to claim 62, further comprising a timer (TIMER1) which measures time elapsed between the first and second instants.

66. The apparatus according to claim 65, wherein the timer (TIMER1) which measures the time between the first and second instants is configured as a ring counter.

67. The apparatus according to claim 66, wherein the ring counter (TIMER1) counts continuously, and the end of a completed measurement is substantially contemporaneous with the beginning of a new measurement.

68. The apparatus according to claim 62, wherein a signal from an electronically commutated motor serves as the rotation speed signal.

69. The apparatus according to claim 62, wherein a counter (INT_CNT_f) for events of the rotation speed signal (f) is provided in the program-controlled apparatus (23).

70. An apparatus according to claim 62, wherein said program-controlled apparatus responds to application of a target value frequency of zero by regulating rotation speed to zero.

71. A method of controlling the rotation speed of a motor which has a rotor and a rotation speed controller, comprising the steps of
generating a rotation speed frequency signal (f) having a frequency proportional to the rotation speed of the rotor;
generating a target value frequency signal (f_s); and
controlling the rotation speed of the rotor in such a way that the frequency of the rotation speed frequency signal (f) and the frequency of the target value frequency signal (f_s) are at a defined ratio (y/z) to one another.

72. The method according to claim 71, wherein the ratio between the frequencies (f) and (f_s) is influenced by at least one parameter.

73. The method according to claim 72, wherein the ratio between the frequencies (f) and (f_s) is defined in the controller by means of at least one parameter (X; Y).

74. The method according to claim 73, further comprising the step of storing the at least one parameter in a nonvolatile memory.

75. A method of ascertaining frequency based upon a plurality of sensed signals (f and f_s), said signals indicating a sequence of events selected from the group consisting of signal pulses and signal edges, comprising the steps of:

- a) for at least two of said signals, initiating measurement of their frequency at a first predetermined instant;
- b) for each of said signals, ascertaining a second instant, at which a frequency datum of said signal subsequent to the first predetermined instant occurs;
- c) separately sensing the number of events of each of said signals subsequent to the second instant;
- d) at a third predetermined instant, initiating termination of measurement of the frequency of said signals;
- e) for each of said signals, ascertaining a fourth instant, at which a frequency datum of said signal subsequent to the third predetermined instant occurs;
- f) from the time interval between the second instant and fourth instant, and from the number of frequency data of the respective signal between said instants, calculating, for each of said signals, a magnitude characterizing its frequency.

76. The method according to claim 75, further comprising, in order to ascertain the fourth instant,

selecting the next frequency datum of the signal as the frequency datum subsequent to the third predetermined instant.

77. The method according to claim 75, further comprising, in order to ascertain the fourth instant, selecting, as the frequency datum subsequent to the third predetermined instant, that next frequency datum of the signal at which the number of frequency data since the second instant corresponds to an integral multiple of a whole number from the series 2, 3, 4, ...

78. The method according to claim 75, wherein frequency measurements are performed continuously and the third predetermined instants each have a substantially constant time offset (T_A) from the associated first predetermined instants.

79. The method according to claim 78, wherein the third predetermined instant of the measurement of a signal corresponds to the first predetermined instant of a subsequent measurement.

80. The method according to claim 78, wherein the fourth instant of a measurement corresponds to the second instant of a subsequent measurement of the same signal.

81. The method according to claim 75, wherein the first predetermined instants, for initiating measurement of the plurality of signals, are substantially identical to each other.

82. The method according to claim 75, wherein the third predetermined instants, for initiating termination of the measurement of the plurality of signals, are substantially identical to each other.

REMARKS

Applicants have made the foregoing amendments to place the PCT application text in customary US format, so that all the claims can be considered on their merits. In order to avoid excessive filing fees, all multiple-dependent claims have been cancelled. These changes were made for procedural reasons, not for any reason related to patentability. Most of the foreign documents (or their English equivalents) mentioned in the specification are included in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith. If the Patent Office notes any remaining informalities which would prevent or hinder examination on the merits, a telephone call to Applicants' counsel is requested.

The original PCT text, on pp. 1-3, contained improper references to the content of the claims, so Substitute Sheets which paraphrase that claim content have been provided; care has been taken to avoid introducing "new matter." On page 9, an explanation of the acronym "EEPROM" has been provided for the uninitiated, and on pages 11 & 14, English-language equivalents of the cited German patents have been identified.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The marked-up version is captioned "VERSION MARKED TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Substitute Sheets
for Specification Pages 1-3, 7, 9, 11, 14 & 20

METHOD FOR REGULATING THE ROTATIONAL SPEED OF A MOTOR
AND A MOTOR FOR CARRYING OUT A METHOD OF THIS TYPE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION:

The invention concerns a method for regulating the rotation speed of a motor, and a motor for carrying out such a method.

BACKGROUND:

5 Digital systems for sensing and regulating the rotation speed of a rotating object ("rotor") are based on the fact that such a rotor generates one or more signals, e.g. needle pulses, pulse edges, or the like, at each revolution. These signals are referred to hereinafter as "events." Measurement of a rotation speed is based on measuring the time offset
10 between such "events" or counting the number of such "events" that occur per unit time. In a regulation process, this rotation speed information is used to keep the rotation speed of a motor at a defined value. A "motor" (prime mover) is understood here to be any kind of motor, e.g. an internal combustion engine, electric motor, pneumatically or hydraulically operating
15 motor, turbine, etc. The invention is preferably applied to regulating the rotation speed of electric motors.

Since the number of such "events" per unit time increases with increasing rotation speed, processing them in a digital system requires more calculation time as the rotation speed becomes greater, so that the
20 calculation time available for other processes decreases.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

It is an object of the invention to make available a new method for regulating the rotation speed of a motor, and a motor for carrying out such a method.

25 According to a first aspect of the invention, this object is achieved by [a method according to claim 1.] calculating a first numerical frequency value representing actual rotation speed and a second numerical frequency value representing a target rotation speed, and processing these values in a digital motor controller in order to regulate the rotation speed toward
30 the target value. Because two digital frequency values are calculated, it is possible to subject one or even both of said frequency values to a mathematical transformation and thus, by means of the digital controller, to create a desired relationship between the first and the second frequency value. Often one of the digital frequency values, or even both, will be
35 multiplied by a constant factor, which in digital terms is often possible by decimal-point shifting and easily makes possible an electronic gearbox; other relationships are also conceivable, however, for example an

exponential function or any other mathematical function in accordance with the requirements of the particular drive system task.

A particularly advantageous embodiment of the invention is [the subject matter of claim 5] to define a series of four instants which span multiple "events" of the frequency signal, and to use a count of events between the second and fourth instants to calculate the frequency. Because multiple "events" of the frequency signal can be sensed with one measurement, an averaging takes place upon measurement of the frequency information. This is because if the frequency is ascertained by means of a plurality of short measurements, it is often necessary to determine a moving average from multiple measured values by calculation. With the invention, on the other hand, an average is obtained without additional calculation, thus additionally relieving the load on, for example, a microprocessor or microcontroller, both hereinafter abbreviated as μC . And despite the approximate definition of a measurement duration by means of the predetermined instants, in the method the actual measurement takes place exactly between two events of the frequency signal. This has proven particularly advantageous because measurement exactly between two defined events of a frequency signal makes possible particularly high accuracy.

Another advantageous development of the invention is [the subject matter of claim 8] to count "events" which happen a fixed number of times per revolution of the rotor. The result of this is that, upon measurement of a rotation speed datum in the context of a rotor having a fixed number of "events" per rotor revolution, measurement always occurs between such "events" which are associated with the same rotational position of the rotor, i.e. complete revolutions are measured. This is of interest in particular for rotors which comprise multiple "marks" for generating the rotor position signal, which marks do not have identical angular spacings. The result of the development, [according to claim 8] using such a fixed number of events per revolution, is thus that measurement always occurs at the same point on the rotor, so that the exactness of the angular spacings is immaterial. High measurement accuracy results therefrom. "Marks" are understood here also to mean invisible marks, e.g. a pattern in the magnetization of a permanent-magnet rotor.

Another advantageous development of the invention is [the subject matter of claim 12] to have the fourth instant of a first measurement correspond to the second instant of a second measurement. A frequency datum is measured continuously by means of such a method, since the next measurement seamlessly follows the present measurement.

In the vicinity of each predetermined instant, a present measurement is ended and a new measurement is begun. If the predetermined instants each occur after a time T_A, a measurement then takes place, on average, after a time T_A in each case. Processing of the measurements, for example in a μC , thus takes place at regular intervals that are independent of the rotation speed. The μC is thereby under a uniform load for these tasks at all rotation speeds. Since in this case there is no pause between the individual measurements, this method is particularly suitable if each individual revolution of the rotor must be taken into account for measurement or regulation, for example as is necessary in motors with high-accuracy controllers or in stepping motors.

The invention furthermore concerns a method according to [claim 16] which the remainder from a first measurement is used in the calculation for a following measurement. The result of taking into account the remainder in the subsequent measurement is that, in the context of a calculation of the frequency information by division, no frequency information is lost due to rounding. This results very advantageously in an increase in the accuracy of the measurement, and is very advantageous in the context of complex control processes that require high precision. Two or more motors can thus run synchronously with one another by the fact that the same frequency signal is delivered to all said motors, i.e. without a higher-level controller. Systems having higher-level controllers are relatively slow, have long initial transients, and are susceptible to oscillations especially at low rotation speeds. A method according to the invention, on the other hand, operates quickly because only a few program steps are needed to take the remainder into account. A method according to the present invention can also easily be switched over to different parameters, e.g. to a different "gearbox factor," different control parameters, etc.

The preferred use of a ring counter [according to claim 25] to measure the time between first and second instants, and the development [according to claim 26] in which the ring counter counts continuously, have the advantage that the termination of one measurement and the start of the subsequent measurement are simultaneous because the ring counter is always running, so that no errors can occur due to measurement delay; and any delays (resulting, for example, from the simultaneous occurrence of two interrupts) are subsequently immediately compensated for, since the time of the subsequent measurement cycle automatically becomes slightly too short.

This makes possible seamless sensing of the rotation speed and an average rotation speed sensing error that is close to zero, since not a single bit is lost during measurement. A ring counter of this kind usually has a so-called pre-scaler with which it is possible to set the frequency at which said counter counts. By setting this function on a bit-by-bit basis, the ring counter can be clocked at various fixed multiples of the quartz oscillator frequency of the μC . The counting frequency and

DETAILED DESCRIPTION:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an arrangement 18 according to the present invention having one motor M. The latter is depicted here as electric motor 32, but could be any other motor whose rotation speed can be modified by means of an actuating signal, e.g. in the case of an internal combustion engine by means of a change in fuel delivery, in the case of a steam turbine by way of a change in steam delivery, etc.

Electric motor 32 is connected at a terminal 33 to a positive operating voltage +U_B and at another terminal 34 to ground GND. The energization of motor 32 is controlled by means of a control output SW 27 in order to regulate its rotation speed. A rotor position signal of motor 32 is delivered as frequency f 29 to a microprocessor or microcontroller, hereinafter called μ C 23. A target or setpoint frequency f_s 25 is also delivered to μ C 23, e.g. from a frequency generator 20 that can also be, for example, another electric motor, as will be described below with reference to FIG. 28. In FIG. 28, motor M1 defines, by way of its output signal, the rotation speed of motors M2 and M3, i.e. the latter can, for example, run at the same rotation speed as motor M1, or at different rotation speeds that are at a desired rotation speed ratio to the rotation speed of motor M1.

FIG. 2 shows the terminals of a μ C 23. In this exemplary embodiment, a model PIC 16C72 microcontroller of the MICROCHIP company is used. This is an 8-bit processor. It contains a 16-bit timer and an 8-bit timer, two Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) registers, and multiple interrupt functions. This processor of course represents only one example, but it has proven to be the best mode for the embodiment described.

μ C 23 has, among others, terminals MCLR 37, VSS 38, CLKIN 39, CLKOUT 40, C1 41, B5 42, B4 43, VDD 44, VSS 45, SDA 46, and SCL 47.

FIG. 3 shows a greatly schematized circuit diagram of a preferred arrangement with one electric motor 32.

The terminals of μ C 23 are depicted in FIG. 2, and the corresponding reference characters are used again. Terminal MCLR 37 is connected via a resistor 71 to a positive voltage +5V. Terminals CLKIN 39 and CLKOUT 40 are connected to a quartz oscillator 75. Terminal VDD 44 is connected to +5V and terminal VSS 45 to ground GND, and the two terminals are connected to one another through a capacitor 77. μ C 23 has two timers TIMER0 and TIMER1 that are depicted schematically in FIG. 1.

Setpoint frequency f_s passes via a line 25 to a filter FILT_s 51, and from there via a line 53 to terminal B4.

Actual frequency f (corresponding to the rotation speed of motor 32), which is sensed by a rotor position sensor 61, passes via a line 29 to a filter FILT 57, and from there via line 59 to terminal B5 42 of μ C 23.

An EEPROM 80 has terminals SDA 81, SCL 83, VDD 89, WP 95, VSS 99, A1 100, A2 101, and A3 103. EEPROM stands for Electrically Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory.

Terminal SDA 46 of μ C 23 is connected via a line 78 to terminal SDA 81 of EEPROM 80 and to an external terminal 105.

EEPROM 80 receives its voltage via terminal VDD 89, which is connected via line 91 to +5V and is additionally protected by a capacitor 93 from voltage spikes; and via terminal VSS 99 that is connected to ground GND. Write-protect terminal WP 95 is taken to ground GND via resistor 97, so that in this exemplary embodiment EEPROM 80 cannot be written to. For the same reason, terminals A1 100, A2 101, and A3 103, which provide address coding, are also connected to ground GND. In this exemplary embodiment, the parameters are permanently written in EEPROM 80. Variants having an EEPROM 80 that can be written to by μ C 23 or via bus B are similarly possible; cf. for example PCT Application PCT/EP99/05186 of the Applicant, dated July 21, 1999 whose US national phase is S.N. 09/ 720,221.

The two outputs SDA 81 and SCL 83 are configured as open collector outputs, and are therefore wired to pull-up resistors 85 and 87, respectively.

Setpoint frequency f_s is furnished externally, e.g. from a frequency generator or another motor. Actual frequency f is in this case furnished by sensor 61, which furnishes a constant number of pulses per revolution. Any known type of sensor can be used as sensor 61, e.g. a resolver; a tachogenerator that furnishes an alternating voltage at its output; a Hall generator; or an optical, inductive, or other sensor. Since, in electronically commutated motors, the rotor position is usually sensed by means of one or more Hall generators, the output signal of such a sensor can also be used as the actual frequency, since additional costs for a tachogenerator are then eliminated. The use of a tachogenerator may, however, be advantageous if a high frequency of signal f is desired for the actual frequency, for example if the rotation speed is low, e.g. in the case of a marine diesel with a very low rotation speed.

Filters FILT_s 51 and FILT 57 serve to condition the edges of setpoint frequency f_s and actual frequency f , respectively, so that the presence of an

Comparator 131 compares the two signals u_D and SW. If control output SW is greater than triangular voltage u_D, then PWM signal PWM_M is HIGH; otherwise it is LOW. The pulse duty factor of PWM signal PWM_M is thus controlled by means of the magnitude of control output SW. In FIG. 6B, signal SW increases from left to right. As a result, the pulse duty factor of signal PWM_M in FIG. 6C is also increased from left to right.

Since motor 137 also receives more current and therefore more output via transistor 135 when the pulse duty factor of signal PWM_M is higher, the motor rotation speed can be controlled by way of the magnitude of control output SW.

FIG. 29 shows a variant of FIG. 6. Identical or identically operating parts are therefore given the same reference characters as in FIG. 6. The motor is depicted here as a so-called two-phase, two-pulse electronically commutated motor (ECM) 32" which has, as an example, a two-pole permanent-magnet rotor 732. The latter controls, through its magnetic field, a Hall generator 61 which generates signal f and with that signal also controls the commutation of ECM 32". ECM 32' can be constructed, for example, in accordance with DE 23 46 380 C2 and corresponding Müller U.S. Patent 3,873,897. This is, of course, only one example. The invention is similarly suitable for ECMs having a different number of phases and a different number of rotor poles, as is self-evident to one skilled in the art.

The two phases of ECM 32" are labeled 736 and 738. Current i1 in phase 736 is controlled by an npn Darlington transistor 740 with free-wheeling diode 742, and an npn Darlington transistor 744 with free-wheeling diode 746 serves to control current i2 in phase 738. The emitters of transistors 740, 744 are connected to one another and, through a resistor 748, to GND.

Transistor 740 is controlled by a port OUT1 of μ C 23 via an AND element 750, which has signal PWM_M delivered to its other output from PWM adjuster 63. FIG. 29 schematically shows the shape of that output signal, which comprises square-wave pulses at, for example, 25 kHz. The width of said

MEASUREMENT OF ACTUAL VALUE AND SETPOINT OR TARGET VALUE

The measurements of actual frequency f and setpoint frequency f_s proceed identically but independently of one another. It could also be said that they proceed in quasi-parallel fashion, "quasi-" meaning that a true parallel processor (which would also be possible in the context of the invention) is not used in this exemplary embodiment. The discussion below will first address the measurement of actual frequency, the actual frequency being an indication of the rotation speed of motor 32 (FIG. 3).

MEASUREMENT PRINCIPLE

FIG. 22 shows a rotor 32 having a mark 290, and a sensor 61 for mark 290 that serves as rotor position sensor. Rotor 32 is usually part of a motor M. If this is an electronically commutated motor (ECM), it usually has a rotor position sensor 61 which can then also be used for the present invention.

By means of mark 290, rotor position sensor 61 detects a rotor position signal f . Rotor position signal f comprises pulses at points 265, 266, 267, and 268, etc., one revolution of rotor 32 having taken place between each two pulses. The time axis is labeled t . These pulses represent "events" in the rotation of rotor 32. In FIG. 22, one event (i.e. one pulse) is generated for each rotor revolution.

By means of rotor position signal f , the rotation speed of rotor 32 is measured as described below. At regular intervals T_A a start signal 261, 263, etc. is generated, requesting a new measurement each time.

The start signal at point 261 is followed by pulse 265, and the start signal at point 263 is followed by pulse 268. The measurement takes place between points 265 and 268. The number N of pulses of rotor position signal f occurring after 265 up to and including 268 is measured (i.e. $N = 3$ in this case), as well as the time $\Delta t(265-268)$ required for said pulses. The frequency of rotor position signal f , and thus the rotation speed of rotor 32, can be determined therefrom. At each of points 265, 268 of the measurement, an old measurement is terminated and a new measurement is started. The procedure is therefore such that, at the pulse following start signal 261, 263, an old measurement is terminated and a new measurement simultaneously begun each time.

VERSION MARKED TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

METHOD FOR REGULATING THE ROTATIONAL SPEED OF A MOTOR
AND A MOTOR FOR CARRYING OUT A METHOD OF THIS TYPEFIELD OF THE INVENTION:

The invention concerns a method for regulating the rotation speed of a motor, and a motor for carrying out such a method.

BACKGROUND:

Digital systems for sensing and regulating the rotation speed of a rotating object ("rotor") are based on the fact that such a rotor generates one or more signals, e.g. needle pulses, pulse edges, or the like, at each revolution. These signals are referred to hereinafter as "events." Measurement of a rotation speed is based on measuring the time offset between such "events" or counting the number of such "events" that occur per unit time. In a regulation process, this rotation speed information is used to keep the rotation speed of a motor at a defined value. A "motor" (prime mover) is understood here to be any kind of motor, e.g. an internal combustion engine, electric motor, pneumatically or hydraulically operating motor, turbine, etc. The invention is preferably applied to regulating the rotation speed of electric motors.

Since the number of such "events" per unit time increases with increasing rotation speed, processing them in a digital system requires more calculation time as the rotation speed becomes greater, so that the calculation time available for other processes decreases.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

It is an object of the invention to make available a new method for regulating the rotation speed of a motor, and a motor for carrying out such a method.

According to a first aspect of the invention, this object is achieved by [a method according to claim 1.] calculating a first numerical frequency value representing actual rotation speed and a second numerical frequency value representing a target rotation speed, and processing these values in a digital motor controller in order to regulate the rotation speed toward the target value. Because two digital frequency values are calculated, it is possible to subject one or even both of said frequency values to a mathematical transformation and thus, by means of the digital controller, to create a desired relationship between the first and the second frequency value. Often one of the digital frequency values, or even both, will be multiplied by a constant factor, which in digital terms is often possible by decimal-point shifting and easily makes possible an electronic gearbox; other relationships are also conceivable, however, for example an

exponential function or any other mathematical function in accordance with the requirements of the particular drive system task.

A particularly advantageous embodiment of the invention is [the subject matter of claim 5] to define a series of four instants which span multiple "events" of the frequency signal, and to use a count of events between the second and fourth instants to calculate the frequency.

Because multiple "events" of the frequency signal can be sensed with one measurement, an averaging takes place upon measurement of the frequency information. This is because if the frequency is ascertained by means of a plurality of short measurements, it is often necessary to determine a moving average from multiple measured values by calculation. With the invention, on the other hand, an average is obtained without additional calculation, thus additionally relieving the load on, for example, a microprocessor or microcontroller, both hereinafter abbreviated as μC . And despite the approximate definition of a measurement duration by means of the predetermined instants, in the method the actual measurement takes place exactly between two events of the frequency signal. This has proven particularly advantageous because measurement exactly between two defined events of a frequency signal makes possible particularly high accuracy.

Another advantageous development of the invention is [the subject matter of claim 8] to count "events" which happen a fixed number of times per revolution of the rotor. The result of this is that, upon measurement of a rotation speed datum in the context of a rotor having a fixed number of "events" per rotor revolution, measurement always occurs between such "events" which are associated with the same rotational position of the rotor, i.e. complete revolutions are measured. This is of interest in particular for rotors which comprise multiple "marks" for generating the rotor position signal, which marks do not have identical angular spacings. The result of the development, [according to claim 8] using such a fixed number of events per revolution, is thus that measurement always occurs at the same point on the rotor, so that the exactness of the angular spacings is immaterial. High measurement accuracy results therefrom. "Marks" are understood here also to mean invisible marks, e.g. a pattern in the magnetization of a permanent-magnet rotor.

Another advantageous development of the invention is [the subject matter of claim 12] to have the fourth instant of a first measurement correspond to the second instant of a second measurement. A frequency datum is measured continuously by means of such a method, since the next measurement seamlessly follows the present measurement.

In the vicinity of each predetermined instant, a present measurement is ended and a new measurement is begun. If the predetermined instants each occur after a time T_A, a measurement then takes place, on average, after a time T_A in each case. Processing of the measurements, for example in a μ C, thus takes place at regular intervals that are independent of the rotation speed. The μ C is thereby under a uniform load for these tasks at all rotation speeds. Since in this case there is no pause between the individual measurements, this method is particularly suitable if each individual revolution of the rotor must be taken into account for measurement or regulation, for example as is necessary in motors with high-accuracy controllers or in stepping motors.

The invention furthermore concerns a method according to [claim 16] which the remainder from a first measurement is used in the calculation for a following measurement. The result of taking into account the remainder in the subsequent measurement is that, in the context of a calculation of the frequency information by division, no frequency information is lost due to rounding. This results very advantageously in an increase in the accuracy of the measurement, and is very advantageous in the context of complex control processes that require high precision. Two or more motors can thus run synchronously with one another by the fact that the same frequency signal is delivered to all said motors, i.e. without a higher-level controller. Systems having higher-level controllers are relatively slow, have long initial transients, and are susceptible to oscillations especially at low rotation speeds. A method according to the invention, on the other hand, operates quickly because only a few program steps are needed to take the remainder into account. A method according to the present invention can also easily be switched over to different parameters, e.g. to a different "gearbox factor," different control parameters, etc.

The preferred use of a ring counter [according to claim 25] to measure the time between first and second instants, and the development [according to claim 26] in which the ring counter counts continuously, have the advantage that the termination of one measurement and the start of the subsequent measurement are simultaneous because the ring counter is always running, so that no errors can occur due to measurement delay; and any delays (resulting, for example, from the simultaneous occurrence of two interrupts) are subsequently immediately compensated for, since the time of the subsequent measurement cycle automatically becomes slightly too short.

This makes possible seamless sensing of the rotation speed and an average rotation speed sensing error that is close to zero, since not a single bit is lost during measurement. A ring counter of this kind usually has a so-called pre-scaler with which it is possible to set the frequency at which said counter counts. By setting this function on a bit-by-bit basis, the ring counter can be clocked at various fixed multiples of the quartz oscillator frequency of the μ C. The counting frequency and

DETAILED DESCRIPTION:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an arrangement 18 according to the present invention having one motor M. The latter is depicted here as electric motor 32, but could be any other motor whose rotation speed can be modified by means of an actuating signal, e.g. in the case of an internal combustion engine by means of a change in fuel delivery, in the case of a steam turbine by way of a change in steam delivery, etc.

Electric motor 32 is connected at a terminal 33 to a positive operating voltage +U_B and at another terminal 34 to ground GND. The energization of motor 32 is controlled by means of a control output SW 27 in order to regulate its rotation speed. A rotor position signal of motor 32 is delivered as frequency f 29 to a microprocessor or microcontroller, hereinafter called μ C 23. A target or setpoint frequency f_s 25 is also delivered to μ C 23, e.g. from a frequency generator 20 that can also be, for example, another electric motor, as will be described below with reference to FIG. 28. In FIG. 28, motor M1 defines, by way of its output signal, the rotation speed of motors M2 and M3, i.e. the latter can, for example, run at the same rotation speed as motor M1, or at different rotation speeds that are at a desired rotation speed ratio to the rotation speed of motor M1.

FIG. 2 shows the terminals of a μ C 23. In this exemplary embodiment, a model PIC 16C72 microcontroller of the MICROCHIP company is used. This is an 8-bit processor. It contains a 16-bit timer and an 8-bit timer, two Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) registers, and multiple interrupt functions. This processor of course represents only one example, but it has proven to be the best mode for the embodiment described.

μ C 23 has, among others, terminals MCLR 37, VSS 38, CLKIN 39, CLKOUT 40, C1 41, B5 42, B4 43, VDD 44, VSS 45, SDA 46, and SCL 47.

FIG. 3 shows a greatly schematized circuit diagram of a preferred arrangement with one electric motor 32.

The terminals of μ C 23 are depicted in FIG. 2, and the corresponding reference characters are used again. Terminal MCLR 37 is connected via a resistor 71 to a positive voltage +5V. Terminals CLKIN 39 and CLKOUT 40 are connected to a quartz oscillator 75. Terminal VDD 44 is connected to +5V and terminal VSS 45 to ground GND, and the two terminals are connected to one another through a capacitor 77. μ C 23 has two timers TIMER0 and TIMER1 that are depicted schematically in FIG. 1.

Setpoint frequency f_s passes via a line 25 to a filter FILT_s 51, and from there via a line 53 to terminal B4.

Actual frequency f (corresponding to the rotation speed of motor 32), which is sensed by a rotor position sensor 61, passes via a line 29 to a filter FILT 57, and from there via line 59 to terminal B5 42 of μ C 23.

An EEPROM 80 has terminals SDA 81, SCL 83, VDD 89, WP 95, VSS 99, A1 100, A2 101, and A3 103. EEPROM stands for Electrically Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory.

Terminal SDA 46 of μ C 23 is connected via a line 78 to terminal SDA 81 of EEPROM 80 and to an external terminal 105.

EEPROM 80 receives its voltage via terminal VDD 89, which is connected via line 91 to +5V and is additionally protected by a capacitor 93 from voltage spikes; and via terminal VSS 99 that is connected to ground GND. Write-protect terminal WP 95 is taken to ground GND via resistor 97, so that in this exemplary embodiment EEPROM 80 cannot be written to. For the same reason, terminals A1 100, A2 101, and A3 103, which provide address coding, are also connected to ground GND. In this exemplary embodiment, the parameters are permanently written in EEPROM 80. Variants having an EEPROM 80 that can be written to by μ C 23 or via bus B are similarly possible; cf. for example PCT Application PCT/EP99/05186 of the Applicant, dated July 21, 1999 whose US national phase is S.N. 09/ 720,221.

The two outputs SDA 81 and SCL 83 are configured as open collector outputs, and are therefore wired to pull-up resistors 85 and 87, respectively.

Setpoint frequency f_s is furnished externally, e.g. from a frequency generator or another motor. Actual frequency f is in this case furnished by sensor 61, which furnishes a constant number of pulses per revolution. Any known type of sensor can be used as sensor 61, e.g. a resolver; a tachogenerator that furnishes an alternating voltage at its output; a Hall generator; or an optical, inductive, or other sensor. Since, in electronically commutated motors, the rotor position is usually sensed by means of one or more Hall generators, the output signal of such a sensor can also be used as the actual frequency, since additional costs for a tachogenerator are then eliminated. The use of a tachogenerator may, however, be advantageous if a high frequency of signal f is desired for the actual frequency, for example if the rotation speed is low, e.g. in the case of a marine diesel with a very low rotation speed.

Filters FILT_s 51 and FILT 57 serve to condition the edges of setpoint frequency f_s and actual frequency f , respectively, so that the presence of an

Comparator 131 compares the two signals u_D and SW. If control output SW is greater than triangular voltage u_D , then PWM signal PWM_M is HIGH; otherwise it is LOW. The pulse duty factor of PWM signal PWM_M is thus controlled by means of the magnitude of control output SW. In FIG. 6B, signal SW increases from left to right. As a result, the pulse duty factor of signal PWM_M in FIG. 6C is also increased from left to right.

Since motor 137 also receives more current and therefore more output via transistor 135 when the pulse duty factor of signal PWM_M is higher, the motor rotation speed can be controlled by way of the magnitude of control output SW.

FIG. 29 shows a variant of FIG. 6. Identical or identically operating parts are therefore given the same reference characters as in FIG. 6. The motor is depicted here as a so-called two-phase, two-pulse electronically commutated motor (ECM) 32" which has, as an example, a two-pole permanent-magnet rotor 732. The latter controls, through its magnetic field, a Hall generator 61 which generates signal f and with that signal also controls the commutation of ECM 32". ECM 32' can be constructed, for example, in accordance with DE 23 46 380 C2 and corresponding Müller U.S. Patent 3,873,897. This is, of course, only one example. The invention is similarly suitable for ECMs having a different number of phases and a different number of rotor poles, as is self-evident to one skilled in the art.

The two phases of ECM 32" are labeled 736 and 738. Current i_1 in phase 736 is controlled by an npn Darlington transistor 740 with free-wheeling diode 742, and an npn Darlington transistor 744 with free-wheeling diode 746 serves to control current i_2 in phase 738. The emitters of transistors 740, 744 are connected to one another and, through a resistor 748, to GND.

Transistor 740 is controlled by a port OUT1 of μC 23 via an AND element 750, which has signal PWM_M delivered to its other output from PWM adjuster 63. FIG. 29 schematically shows the shape of that output signal, which comprises square-wave pulses at, for example, 25 kHz. The width of said

MEASUREMENT OF ACTUAL VALUE AND SETPOINT OR TARGET VALUE

The measurements of actual frequency f and setpoint frequency f_s proceed identically but independently of one another. It could also be said that they proceed in quasi-parallel fashion, "quasi-" meaning that a true parallel processor (which would also be possible in the context of the invention) is not used in this exemplary embodiment. The discussion below will first address the measurement of actual frequency, the actual frequency being an indication of the rotation speed of motor 32 (FIG. 3).

MEASUREMENT PRINCIPLE

FIG. 22 shows a rotor 32 having a mark 290, and a sensor 61 for mark 290 that serves as rotor position sensor. Rotor 32 is usually part of a motor M. If this is an electronically commutated motor (ECM), it usually has a rotor position sensor 61 which can then also be used for the present invention.

By means of mark 290, rotor position sensor 61 detects a rotor position signal f . Rotor position signal f comprises pulses at points 265, 266, 267, and 268, etc., one revolution of rotor 32 having taken place between each two pulses. The time axis is labeled t . These pulses represent "events" in the rotation of rotor 32. In FIG. 22, one event (i.e. one pulse) is generated for each rotor revolution.

By means of rotor position signal f , the rotation speed of rotor 32 is measured as described below. At regular intervals T_A a start signal 261, 263, etc. is generated, requesting a new measurement each time.

The start signal at point 261 is followed by pulse 265, and the start signal at point 263 is followed by pulse 268. The measurement takes place between points 265 and 268. The number N of pulses of rotor position signal f occurring after 265 up to and including 268 is measured (i.e. $N = 3$ in this case), as well as the time $\Delta t(265-268)$ required for said pulses. The frequency of rotor position signal f , and thus the rotation speed of rotor 32, can be determined therefrom. At each of points 265, 268 of the measurement, an old measurement is terminated and a new measurement is started. The procedure is therefore such that, at the pulse following start signal 261, 263, an old measurement is terminated and a new measurement simultaneously begun each time.

METHOD FOR REGULATING THE ROTATIONAL SPEED OF A MOTOR
AND A MOTOR FOR CARRYING OUT A METHOD OF THIS TYPE

The invention concerns a method for regulating the rotation speed of a motor, and a motor for carrying out such a method.

Digital systems for sensing and regulating the rotation speed of a rotating object ("rotor") are based on the fact that such a rotor generates one or more signals, e.g. needle pulses, pulse edges, or the like, at each revolution. These signals are referred to hereinafter as "events." Measurement of a rotation speed is based on measuring the time offset between such "events" or counting the number of such "events" that occur per unit time. In a regulation process, this rotation speed information is used to keep the rotation speed of a motor at a defined value. A "motor" (prime mover) is understood here to be any kind of motor, e.g. an internal combustion engine, electric motor, pneumatically or hydraulically operating motor, turbine, etc. The invention is preferably applied to regulating the rotation speed of electric motors.

Since the number of such "events" per unit time increases with increasing rotation speed, processing them in a digital system requires more calculation time as the rotation speed becomes greater, so that the calculation time available for other processes decreases.

It is an object of the invention to make available a new method for regulating the rotation speed of a motor, and a motor for carrying out such a method.

According to a first aspect of the invention, this object is achieved by a method according to claim 1. Because two digital frequency values are calculated, it is possible to subject one or even both of said frequency values to a mathematical transformation and thus, by means of the digital controller, to create a desired relationship between the first and the second frequency value. Often one of the digital frequency values, or even

both, will be multiplied by a constant factor, which in digital terms is often possible by decimal-point shifting and easily makes possible an electronic gearbox; other relationships are also conceivable, however, for example an exponential function or any other mathematical function in accordance with the requirements of the particular drive system task.

A particularly advantageous embodiment of the invention is the subject matter of claim 5. Because multiple "events" of the frequency signal can be sensed with one measurement, an averaging takes place upon measurement of the frequency information. This is because if the frequency is ascertained by means of a plurality of short measurements, it is often necessary to determine a moving average from multiple measured values by calculation. With the invention, on the other hand, an average is obtained without additional calculation, thus additionally relieving the load on, for example, a microprocessor or microcontroller, both hereinafter abbreviated as μC . And despite the approximate definition of a measurement duration by means of the predetermined instants, in the method the actual measurement takes place exactly between two events of the frequency signal. This has proven particularly advantageous because measurement exactly between two defined events of a frequency signal makes possible particularly high accuracy.

Another advantageous development of the invention is the subject matter of claim 8. The result of this is that upon measurement of a rotation speed datum in the context of a rotor having a fixed number of "events" per rotor revolution, measurement always occurs between such "events" which are associated with the same rotational position of the rotor, i.e. complete revolutions are measured. This is of interest in particular for rotors which comprise multiple "marks" for generating the rotor position signal, which marks do not have identical angular spacings. The result of the development according to claim 8 is thus that measurement always occurs at the same point on the rotor, so that the exactness of the angular spacings is immaterial. High measurement accuracy results therefrom. "Marks" are understood here also to mean invisible marks, e.g. a pattern in the magnetization of a permanent-magnet rotor.

Another advantageous development of the invention is the subject matter of claim 12. A frequency datum is measured continuously by means of such a method, since the next measurement seamlessly follows the present measurement. In the vicinity of each predetermined instant, a present measurement is ended and a new measurement is begun. If the predetermined instants each occur after a time T_A , a measurement then takes place, on average, after a time T_A in each case. Processing of the measurements, for example in a μC , thus takes place at regular intervals that are independent of the rotation speed. The μC is thereby under a uniform load for these tasks at all rotation speeds. Since in this case there is no pause between the individual measurements, this method is particularly suitable if each individual revolution of the rotor must be taken into account for measurement or regulation, for example as is necessary in motors with high-accuracy controllers or in stepping motors.

The invention furthermore concerns a method according to claim 16. The result of taking into account the remainder in the subsequent measurement is that, in the context of a calculation of the frequency information by division, no frequency information is lost due to rounding. This results very advantageously in an increase in the accuracy of the measurement, and is very advantageous in the context of complex control processes that require high precision. Two or more motors can thus run synchronously with one another by the fact that the same frequency signal is delivered to all said motors, i.e. without a higher-level controller. Systems having higher-level controllers are relatively slow, have long initial transients, and are susceptible to oscillations especially at low rotation speeds. A method according to the invention, on the other hand, operates quickly because only a few program steps are needed to take the remainder into account. A method according to the present invention can also easily be switched over to different parameters, e.g. to a different "gearbox factor," different control parameters, etc.

The preferred use of a ring counter according to claim 25, and the development according to claim 26, have the advantage that the termination of one measurement and the start of the subsequent measurement are simultaneous because the ring counter is always running, so that no errors can occur due to measurement delay; and any delays (resulting, for example, from the simultaneous occurrence of two interrupts) are subsequently immediately compensated for, since the time of the subsequent measurement cycle automatically becomes slightly too short.

This makes possible seamless sensing of the rotation speed and an average rotation speed sensing error that is close to zero, since not a single bit is lost during measurement. A ring counter of this kind usually has a so-called pre-scaler with which it is possible to set the frequency at which said counter counts. By setting this function on a bit-by-bit basis, the ring counter can be clocked at various fixed multiples of the quartz oscillator frequency of the μC . The counting frequency and

resolution of the ring counter can thereby be optimized for the application. This setting can be accomplished by way of a parameter that is stored in the motor in a nonvolatile memory. The resolution of the ring counter can thereby be optimized for different rotation speed ranges using different parameters.

Further details and advantageous developments of the invention are evident from the exemplary embodiments - which are in no way to be understood as a limitation of the invention - that are described below and depicted in the drawings, and from the other dependent claims. In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a schematic depiction of an arrangement according to the present invention for regulating the rotation speed of a motor to a value that is defined from outside by a frequency signal f_s ;

FIG. 2 shows the pin assignment of a μC used in the exemplary embodiment, in this case a Microchip PIC 16C72;

FIG. 3 is a schematic circuit diagram of a preferred embodiment of a motor according to the invention, in this case with one electric motor 32;

FIG. 4 shows a frequency signal f before and after signal processing;

FIG. 5 is a schematic depiction to explain a detail of FIG. 3;

FIG. 6 is a schematic depiction to explain a detail of FIG. 3;

FIG. 7 is a schematized depiction of a control arrangement that makes possible an "electronic gearbox";

FIG. 8 is a flow chart with an overview of the entire program, here in the form of a so-called function manager;

FIG. 9 shows a function register that is used in conjunction with FIG. 8;

FIG. 10 is a state diagram for a preferred measurement method for measuring a frequency signal;

FIG. 11 is a diagram showing, by way of example, the quasi-simultaneous measurement of a setpoint frequency f_s and an actual frequency f ;

FIG. 12 is a flow chart for a function TIMER0 Interrupt;

FIG. 13 is a flow chart for a function Hall Interrupt;

FIG. 14 is a flow chart for a function f_s Interrupt;

FIG. 15 is a flow chart for a function CALC_n for calculating the instantaneous value of the rotation speed (actual rotation speed);

FIG. 16 is a flow chart for a function CALC_n_s for calculating a rotation speed setpoint n_s :

FIG. 17 is a flow chart for a function RGL_ON which determines when the RGL function of FIG. 18 is started;

FIG. 18 is a flow chart for the function RGL for regulating the rotation speed; this function makes possible an "electronic gearbox";

FIG. 19 is a state diagram for the general execution of the control process;

FIG. 20 is a state diagram for a controller in which the rotation speed setpoint $n_s = 0$ can also be set;

FIG. 21 is a flow chart for a function RGL_ON2 which is adapted to the state diagram of FIG. 20;

FIG. 22 is a schematic depiction to explain a preferred measurement method in the case of a rotor having a single mark 290;

FIG. 23 is a schematic depiction of a rotation speed calculation function;

FIG. 24 is a schematic depiction of a preferred manner of measurement in the case of a rotor having two marks 291 and 292;

FIG. 25 is a schematic depiction of a measurement analogous to FIG. 24 in which an interference signal S occurs, for explanation of the operations occurring in that context;

FIG. 26 is a depiction with three electric motors 181, 183, 185 which have different numbers of rotor poles and which here are regulated by the same setpoint frequency signal f_s to the same rotation speed n ;

FIG. 27 is a highly schematized depiction of a copier that has three drive motors M1, M2, and M3, which all receive the same control signal f_s for their rotation speed and which, thanks to the gearbox function, run at different rotation speeds that are at defined numerical ratios to f_s ;

FIG. 28 is a schematic depiction with three motors M1, M2, M3, of which M1 is the master motor that supplies to the two other motors M2 and M3 a signal TACHO that constitutes an indication of the rotation speed of M1 and that regulates the rotation speeds of the other two motors in such a way that said rotation speeds are always at a defined ratio to the rotation speed of motor M1; and

FIG. 29 is a schematic depiction analogous to FIG. 6 which shows the commutation of an electronically commutated motor 32" by μC 23.

Identical or identically operating parts are labeled hereinafter with the same reference characters and are usually described only once.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an arrangement 18 according to the present invention having one motor M. The latter is depicted here as electric motor 32, but could be any other motor whose rotation speed can be modified by means of an actuating signal, e.g. in the case of an internal combustion engine by means of a change in fuel delivery, in the case of a steam turbine by way of a change in steam delivery, etc.

Electric motor 32 is connected at a terminal 33 to a positive operating voltage +U_B and at another terminal 34 to ground GND. The energization of motor 32 is controlled by means of a control output SW 27 in order to regulate its rotation speed. A rotor position signal of motor 32 is delivered as frequency f 29 to a microprocessor or microcontroller, hereinafter called μ C 23. A setpoint frequency f_s 25 is also delivered to μ C 23, e.g. from a frequency generator 20 that can also be, for example, another electric motor, as will be described below with reference to FIG. 28. In FIG. 28, motor M1 defines by way of its output signal the rotation speed of motors M2 and M3, i.e. the latter can, for example, run at the same rotation speed as motor M1, or at different rotation speeds that are at a desired rotation speed ratio to the rotation speed of motor M1.

Since μC 23 is small, it can be combined together with motor 32 into module 18, namely into a motor unit 18 with an "electronic gearbox." This is possible even for electric motors that are referred to, according to the common definition, as miniature or subminiature motors.

5 Implemented in μC is a rotation speed controller n-CTRL 35 that regulates control output SW 27 so as to create, between setpoint frequency f_s and actual frequency f , a fixed ratio that can be described as follows:

$$f_s/f = y/z \quad (1)$$

where y and z are whole numbers. This is therefore the aforementioned
10 "electronic gearbox."

This makes it possible, for example, synchronously to control one motor 181 having a two-pole rotor R_2 , one motor 183 having a four-pole rotor R_4 , and one motor 185 having a six-pole rotor R_6 using a single setpoint frequency f_s , as depicted in FIG. 26, so that, for example, all
15 three motors rotate at the same desired rotation speed n that is at a specific ratio to f_s .

For that purpose, for example,

$$f_s / f_2 = 20 / 2,$$

$$f_s / f_4 = 20 / 4, \text{ and}$$

$$f_s / f_6 = 20 / 6$$

are set, f_2 being the actual frequency of two-pole rotor R_2 , f_4 the actual frequency of four-pole rotor R_4 , and f_6 the actual frequency of rotor R_6 . The depiction in FIG. 26 is based on the assumption that a Hall generator controlled by the magnetic field of the rotor in question is used
20 therein, in the usual way, to sense the rotor position (cf. FIG. 11C and FIG. 29). The ratios result from the fact that with two-pole rotor R_2 , two changes in the Hall signal ("Hall changes") take place per revolution, while with four-pole rotor R_4 four Hall changes take place per revolution, and with six-pole rotor R_6 , six Hall changes occur per revolution.

25 An arrangement of this kind is of interest principally for devices having several motors, in which the motors must be at a fixed rotation speed ratio to one another.
30

FIG. 2 shows the terminals of a μ C 23. In this exemplary embodiment, a model PIC 16C72 microcontroller of the MICROCHIP company is used. This is an 8-bit processor. It contains a 16-bit timer and an 8-bit timer, two PWM registers, and multiple interrupt functions. This processor of course represents only one example, but it has proven to be the best mode for the embodiment described.

μ C 23 has, among others, terminals MCLR 37, VSS 38, CLKIN 39, CLKOUT 40, C1 41, B5 42, B4 43, VDD 44, VSS 45, SDA 46, and SCL 47.

FIG. 3 shows a greatly schematized circuit diagram of a preferred arrangement with one electric motor 32.

The terminals of μ C 23 are depicted in FIG. 2, and the corresponding reference characters are used again. Terminal MCLR 37 is connected via a resistor 71 to a positive voltage +5V. Terminals CLKIN 39 and CLKOUT 40 are connected to a quartz oscillator 75. Terminal VDD 44 is connected to +5V and terminal VSS 45 to ground GND, and the two terminals are connected to one another through a capacitor 77. μ C 23 has two timers TIMER0 and TIMER1 that are depicted schematically in FIG. 1.

Setpoint frequency f_s passes via a line 25 to a filter FILT_s 51, and from there via a line 53 to terminal B4.

Actual frequency f (corresponding to the rotation speed of motor 32), which is sensed by a rotor position sensor 61, passes via a line 29 to a filter FILT 57, and from there via line 59 to terminal B5 42 of μ C 23.

An EEPROM 80 has terminals SDA 81, SCL 83, VDD 89, WP 95, VSS 99, A1 100, A2 101, and A3 103.

Terminal SDA 46 of μ C 23 is connected via a line 78 to terminal SDA 81 of EEPROM 80 and to an external terminal 105.

Terminal SCL 47 of μ C 23 is connected via a line 79 to terminal SCL 83 of EEPROM 80 and to an external terminal 107. Terminals 105, 107 provide connection to a communication bus B.

Terminals VSS 99, A1 100, A2 101, and A3 103 of EEPROM 80 are connected to ground GND. Terminal WP 95 is connected via a resistor 97 to ground GND. Terminals SDA 81 and SCL 83 are connected via pull-up resistors 85 and 87, respectively, to +5V. Terminal VDD 89 is connected via a line 91 to +5V and via a capacitor 93 to ground GND.

Motor 32 has an adjusting member SG 63 which influences the magnitude of a current i flowing through motor 32.

Adjusting member 63 is connected via a line 33 to voltage +U_B, and a control output SW is delivered via a line 27 from terminal C1 of μ C 23 to adjusting member SG 63 in order to influence the magnitude of current i . A resistor 65 is located between terminal C1 of μ C 23 and line 27, and node 66 is connected via a capacitor 67 to ground GND. Resistor 65 and capacitor 67 together form an integration member whose operation will be explained below with reference to FIG. 5.

MODE OF OPERATION

μ C 23 receives its operating voltage through terminal VDD 44 at +5V and VSS 45 at ground GND. The supply voltage is protected from voltage spikes and dips by a filter capacitor 77. The clock frequency of μ C 23 is generated by means of oscillator 75 connected to terminals CLKIN 39 and CLKOUT 40.

Terminals SDA 46 and SCL 47 of μ C 23 serve for serial transfer of data between μ C 23 and EEPROM 80 (terminals SDA 81 and SCL 83, respectively, thereon), and to external terminals 105 and 107, respectively, that are connected, for example, to external bus B.

EEPROM 80 receives its voltage via terminal VDD 89, which is connected via line 91 to +5V and is additionally protected by a capacitor 93 from voltage spikes; and via terminal VSS 99 that is connected to ground GND. Write-protect terminal WP 95 is taken to ground GND via resistor 97, so that in this exemplary embodiment EEPROM 80 cannot be written to. For the same reason, terminals A1 100, A2 101, and A3 103, which provide address coding, are also connected to ground GND. In this exemplary embodiment, the parameters are permanently written in EEPROM 80. Variants having an EEPROM 80 that can be written to by μ C 23 or via bus B are similarly possible; cf. for example PCT Application PCT/EP99/05186 of the Applicant, dated July 21, 1999 (PCT216 = PCT-3036).

The two outputs SDA 81 and SCL 83 are configured as open collector outputs, and are therefore wired to pull-up resistors 85 and 87, respectively.

Setpoint frequency f_s is furnished externally, e.g. from a frequency generator or another motor. Actual frequency f is in this case furnished by sensor 61, which furnishes a constant number of pulses per revolution. Any known type of sensor can be used as sensor 61, e.g. a resolver; a tachogenerator that furnishes an alternating voltage at its output; a Hall generator; or an optical, inductive, or other sensor. Since, in electronically commutated motors, the rotor position is usually sensed by means of one or more Hall generators, the output signal of such a sensor can also be used as the actual frequency, since additional costs for a tachogenerator are then eliminated. The use of a tachogenerator may, however, be advantageous if a high frequency of signal f is desired for the actual frequency, for example if the rotation speed is low, e.g. in the case of a marine diesel with a very low rotation speed.

Filters FILT_s 51 and FILT 57 serve to condition the edges of setpoint frequency f_s and actual frequency f , respectively, so that the

presence of an edge at the respective interruptible inputs B5 42 and B4 43 reliably triggers an interrupt. Filters FILT_s 51 and FILT 57 can be configured, for example, as RC members or as Schmitt triggers.

With appropriate signals f and f_s, one or both of filters FILT_s 51 and FILT 57 can also be omitted.

An example of the effect of the filters is shown in FIG. 4.

FIG. 4A shows actual frequency f before it has entered filter FILT 57, and FIG 4B shows actual frequency f after it has been conditioned in filter FILT 57.

Actual frequency f in FIG. 4A derives, for example, from a Hall generator, and its edges 109 are less steep.

Actual frequency f in FIG. 4B has been conditioned by filter FILT 57. Edges 110 are steep, and can reliably trigger an interrupt in μ C 23.

A control output RGL_VAL calculated in μ C 23 (FIG. 7) is outputted via terminal C1 41 as a pulse width modulated (PWM) signal PWM_SW. Signal PWM_SW is converted by an RC member comprising resistor 65 and capacitor 67 into an analog voltage approximately proportional to μ C-internal control output RGL_VAL, which voltage is designated as control output SW and is delivered to adjusting member SG 63 via line 27. Adjusting member SG 63 controls the delivery of current for motor M 32. Adjusting member SG 63 can be configured, for example, as an analog longitudinal positioner, or as a PWM adjusting member, or in another fashion.

FIG. 5A shows PWM signal PWM_SW from terminal C1 41 of FIG. 3; and FIG. 5B shows, in idealized form, control output SW that is created at node 66 of FIG. 3 by the RC member constituted by resistor 65 and capacitor 67 as the pulse duty factor of PWM_SW decreases.

Depending on pulse duty factor TV_SW of PWM signal PWM_SW of FIG. 5A, control output SW of FIG. 5B has a specific voltage U between 0 and MAX.

Pulse duty factor TV is generally defined as

$$TV = t_{on}/T \quad (2)$$

i.e. as the quotient of the time t_{on} (FIG. 5A) during which the PWM signal is HIGH (here from 121 to 123), and the period T of the PWM signal (here from 121 to 125). The pulse duty factor is indicated as a percentage, and can therefore assume values from 0 to 100 percent.

In FIG. 5A, the pulse duty factor decreases from left to right, so that signal SW in FIG. 5B also decreases from left to right.

Signal SW is delivered to adjusting member SG 63 of FIG. 3 via line 27, so that the motor rotation speed can be controlled by means of pulse duty factor TV_SW.

FIG. 6A shows, purely by way of example, an exemplary embodiment for adjusting member SG 63 of FIG. 3 that serves to control rotation speed n of a motor 137, which is depicted here as a collector motor.

Adjusting member SG 63 comprises a comparator 131 having a positive input 132 and a negative input 133, a triangular generator DG 134, and an npn transistor 135.

From node 66, signal SW is delivered to positive input 132 of comparator 131. Triangular signal u_D generated by triangular generator DG 134 is delivered to negative input 133 of comparator 131. A PWM signal PWM_M is created at the output of comparator 131 and is delivered to transistor 135. Transistor 135 switches between operating voltage $+U_B$ connected via line 33 and motor M 137, which is connected via line 35 and has associated with it a tachogenerator 138 for producing a frequency f proportional to the rotation speed.

FIG. 6B shows examples of profiles for voltages u_D and SW, and FIG. 6C shows a signal PWM_M resulting therefrom with which transistor 135 is switched on and off.

Comparator 131 compares the two signals u_D and SW. If control output SW is greater than triangular voltage u_D , then PWM signal PWM_M is HIGH; otherwise it is LOW. The pulse duty factor of PWM signal PWM_M is thus controlled by means of the magnitude of control output SW. In FIG. 6B, signal SW increases from left to right. As a result, the pulse duty factor of signal PWM_M in FIG. 6C is also increased from left to right.

Since motor 137 also receives more current and therefore more output via transistor 135 when the pulse duty factor of signal PWM_M is higher, the motor rotation speed can be controlled by way of the magnitude of control output SW.

FIG. 29 shows a variant of FIG. 6. Identical or identically operating parts are therefore given the same reference characters as in FIG. 6. The motor is depicted here as a so-called two-phase, two-pulse electronically commutated motor (ECM) 32" which has, as an example, a two-pole permanent-magnet rotor 732. The latter controls, through its magnetic field, a Hall generator 61 which generates signal f and with that signal also controls the commutation of ECM 32". ECM 32' can be constructed, for example, in accordance with DE 23 46 380 C2. This is, of course, only one example. The invention is similarly suitable for ECMs having a different number of phases and a different number of rotor poles, as is self-evident to one skilled in the art.

The two phases of ECM 32" are labeled 736 and 738. Current i_1 in phase 736 is controlled by an npn Darlington transistor 740 with free-wheeling diode 742, and an npn Darlington transistor 744 with free-wheeling diode 746 serves to control current i_2 in phase 738. The emitters of transistors 740, 744 are connected to one another and, through a resistor 748, to GND.

Transistor 740 is controlled by a port OUT1 of μC 23 via an AND element 750, which has signal PWM_M delivered to its other output from PWM adjuster 63. FIG. 29 schematically shows the shape of that output signal, which comprises square-wave pulses at, for example, 25 kHz. The width of

said pulses is determined by the magnitude of the voltage at input 132 of adjuster 63. Transistor 740 becomes conductive only if a logical "1" signal is present both at the output of adjuster 63 and at output OUT1 of μ C 23.

Transistor 744 is similarly controlled by a port OUT2 of μ C 23 via an AND element 752, which has signal PWM_M delivered to its other input from adjuster 63. Transistor 744 therefore becomes conductive only if a logical "1" signal is present both at the output of PWM adjuster 63 and at output OUT2 of μ C 23.

A resistor 754 is located between the output of AND element 750 and the base of transistor 740, and a resistor 756 is present analogously for transistor 744.

As described below with reference to FIG. 13, S310 and S314, outputs OUT1 and OUT2 of μ C 23 are switched alternately to HIGH and LOW and thereby control which of the two phases 736, 738 is to receive current. The magnitude of currents i_1 , i_2 is determined by the signal at node 66, which determines the pulse duty factor of signal PWM_M, as described in detail in FIG. 6.

SCHEMATIC OVERVIEW OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF THE PROGRAM

FIG. 7 shows an overview of the program executing in μ C 23. The program comprises a setpoint measurement function "MEAS f_s" 141 and a setpoint calculation function "CALC n_s" 143, an actual value measurement function "MEAS f" 147 and an actual value calculation function "CALC n" 149, a "gearbox" 145, and rotation speed controller n-CTRL 35 (FIG. 1). The digital rotation speed controller n-CTRL 35 has in this case a system deviation calculator 151, a PI controller "PI-RGL" 153, and a control output generator "GEN PWM" 155 at whose output signal PWM_SW is generated.

Setpoint frequency f_s is measured in "MEAS f_s" 141. Here the number of edges (110 in FIG. 4) since the last measurement is measured in a variable INT_MEAS_f_s, and the instant of the present measurement is measured in a variable t_MEAS_f_s.

Setpoint calculation function "CALC n_s" 143 calculates therefrom the rotation speed setpoint n_s. This is explained below with reference to FIG. 15.

The measurement of actual frequency f in "MEAS f" 147 and the calculation of actual rotation speed n in "CALC n" 149 occur in a fashion entirely analogous to the measurement of setpoint frequency f_s in "MEAS f_s" 141, and rotation speed setpoint n_s is calculated in "CALC n_s" 143.

In " $X * n_s$ " rotation speed setpoint n_s is multiplied by a factor X, and that product as well as actual rotation speed n is delivered to system deviation calculator 151. If $X = 2$, for example, the result is that twice the value of the measured rotation speed setpoint is delivered to system deviation calculator 151; while if, for example, $X = 1/2$, a value corresponding to half the rotation speed setpoint is delivered to system deviation calculator 151. " $X * n_s$ " thus implements a gearbox function; it is highly advantageous that factors such as, for example, $X = 1.733$ can also be set in this context.

FIG. 7 also shows, with dashed lines, a variant with block 145', in which actual rotation speed n is multiplied by a factor Y. Variant 145 (i.e. $X * n_s$) is normally preferred, since then all the motors of a system can be of identical design and the gearbox factor X can be set globally according to the same rules.

A system deviation RGL_DIFF calculated in system deviation calculator 151 is delivered to controller function "PI-RGL" 153, which calculates controller value RGL_VAL therefrom. The manner in which this is done is described in detail below with reference to FIG. 18.

Value RGL_VAL is delivered to control output generator "GEN PWM" 155, which converts it (in this example) into a PWM signal PWM_SW that is outputted at output C1 of μC 23 and is described in more detail in FIG. 5. By means of signal PWM_SW, the rotation speed of motor M is controlled so that system deviation RGL_DIFF becomes zero.

GENERAL CONFIGURATION OF THE OVERALL PROGRAM; FUNCTION MANAGER

The architecture of the overall program executing in μ C 23 will be described below using a preferred exemplary embodiment. The subprograms will then be described individually. They are designed specifically for an inexpensive microcontroller. If an expensive processor is used, other approaches are also possible in the context of the invention, but the version described has the advantage that it can be implemented at very low cost, so that great savings can be realized as compared to a mechanical gearbox.

FIG. 8 shows a flow chart with a preferred embodiment of the overall program executing in μ C 23.

At the very top are three interrupt routines - Hall Interrupt S631 (FIG. 13), f_s Interrupt S635 (FIG. 14), and TIMER0 Interrupt S639 (FIG. 12) - which are executed each time the respective interrupt 630, 634, or 638 occurs and which act on the main program via 632, 636, 640. The priority, i.e. the sequence in which the individual program elements are executed, decreases from the top down. The priorities are therefore labeled L1 through L10 along the right side, L1 having the highest priority.

The main program is depicted below the interrupt routines. After motor 32 is switched on, an internal reset is triggered in μ C 23. Initialization of μ C 23 occurs in S600. For example, parameters are read out of EEPROM 80 and transferred into the RAM of μ C 23.

After initialization, execution branches into a so-called function manager 601 that begins in S602. Function manager 601 controls the execution of the individual subprograms.

Those functions that are time-critical and must be performed at each pass are executed first. These include, for example, a communication function COMM in S604 which performs data transfer between μ C 23, EEPROM 80, and external bus terminal B. S606 represents any further time-critical functions that may be present.

FIG. 9 shows an example of a function register 605 in which one bit is reserved for each further function in FIG. 8.

In this exemplary embodiment function register 605 is one byte long, and the following request bits, starting with the least significant bit (LSB), are defined for the requestable functions that are explained later:

- FCT_XY for any function S612;
- FCT_CALC_n for an actual value calculation function CALC_n S616 (FIG. 15);
- FCT_CALC_n_s for a setpoint calculation function CALC_n_s S620 (FIG. 16);
- FCT_RGL_ON for a controller start check function RGL_ON S624 (FIG. 17);
- FCT_RGL for a controller function RGL S628 (FIG. 18).

The remaining bits (bit5 through bit7) are reserved for additional requestable functions that may be integrated into function manager 601 as applicable.

Actual value calculation function CALC_n S616 (FIG. 15) serves to calculate actual rotation speed n; setpoint calculation function CALC_n_s S620 (FIG. 16) serves to calculate rotation speed setpoint n_s; and controller start check function RGL_ON S624 (FIG. 17) checks whether the conditions exist for initiating the subsequent function RGL S628 (FIG. 18), and requests that function as applicable. Lastly, controller function RGL S628 calculates the new control output RGL_VAL (FIG. 7) and outputs it to adjusting member SG 63 of motor 32.

If a specific requestable function is to be requested by another function or by an interrupt routine, the bit of the requested function in function register 605 (FIG. 9) is set to 1, e.g. FCT_XY = 1. If function manager 601 finds no other requestable function with a higher priority during a pass, that function is executed.

Once a requested function has been executed, it sets its own request bit back to 0, i.e. for example $FCT_XY = 0$. This allows longer functions - which cannot be executed in one pass because, for example, they would take too long - to be subdivided and processed in multiple calls.

5 In FIG. 8, after S606 the program checks in a predetermined sequence, beginning with the most important requestable function, as to whether each function's request bit is set. If such is the case for a function, it is executed; and execution then branches back to the beginning FCT_MAN S602 of function manager 601. The sequence in which function register 605 is
10 checked defines the prioritization of the requestable functions. The higher up a function is located in function manager 601, the higher its priority.

The mode of operation of function manager FCT_MAN 601 will be explained with reference to an example. If the program branches, for example, from S610 to S614, S614 then checks whether function register bit
15 $FCT_CALC_n = 1$, i.e. whether actual value calculation function CALC_n S616 (depicted in FIG. 15) has been requested. If Yes, execution branches to S616 and the rotation speed calculation is performed. Upon termination, rotation speed calculation function CALC_n S616 resets request bit
20 FCT_CALC_n back to 0 (cf. S374 in FIG. 15), and execution branches back to the beginning S602 of function manager 601.

If a request bit was not set in any of the polls up to S626, execution branches without any action back to S602, and functions S604 and S606, which are executed at each pass of function manager 601, are performed again.

25 The function manager results in optimum utilization of the resources of μC 23.

MEASUREMENT OF ACTUAL VALUE AND SETPOINT

The measurements of actual frequency f and setpoint frequency f_s proceed identically but independently of one another. It could also be said that they proceed in quasi-parallel fashion, "quasi-" meaning that a true parallel processor (which would also be possible in the context of the invention) is not used in this exemplary embodiment. The discussion below will first address the measurement of actual frequency, the actual frequency being an indication of the rotation speed of motor 32 (FIG. 3).

MEASUREMENT PRINCIPLE

FIG. 22 shows a rotor 32 having a mark 290, and a sensor 61 for mark 290 that serves as rotor position sensor. Rotor 32 is usually part of a motor M. If this is an electronically commutated motor (ECM), it usually has a rotor position sensor 61 which can then also be used for the present invention.

By means of mark 290, rotor position sensor 61 detects a rotor position signal f . Rotor position signal f comprises pulses at points 165, 166, 167, and 168, etc., one revolution of rotor 32 having taken place between each two pulses. The time axis is labeled t . These pulses represent "events" in the rotation of rotor 32. In FIG. 22, one event (i.e. one pulse) is generated for each rotor revolution.

By means of rotor position signal f , the rotation speed of rotor 32 is measured as described below. At regular intervals T_A a start signal 261, 263, etc. is generated, requesting a new measurement each time.

The start signal at point 261 is followed by pulse 265, and the start signal at point 263 is followed by pulse 268. The measurement takes place between points 265 and 268. The number N of pulses of rotor position signal f occurring after 265 up to and including 268 is measured (i.e. $N = 3$ in this case), as well as the time $\Delta t(165-268)$ required for said pulses. The frequency of rotor position signal f , and thus the rotation speed of rotor 32, can be determined therefrom. At each of points 265, 268 of the measurement, an old measurement is terminated and a new measurement is started. The procedure is therefore such that, at the pulse following start signal 261, 263, an old measurement is terminated and a new measurement simultaneously begun each time.

The number N of pulses can be measured, for example, in a counter, by the fact that in said counter, the value N at the end of each measurement is reset to zero and the counter value N is then incremented by 1 at each pulse.

5 The time Δt can be measured, for example, by taking the difference between the time at which the measurement starts, e.g. $t(265)$ at point 265, and the time at which the measurement ends, e.g. $t(268)$ at point 268.

For example, if $t(265) = 17.7$ ms and $t(268) = 87.7$ ms, then

10 $\Delta t(265-268) = 87.7 - 17.7 = 70$ ms.

Start signals 261, 263, which occur at fixed intervals T_A , create a measurement window. The measurements do not, however, take place exactly at the instant of the respective start signal; instead, measurement occurs at a suitable point, subsequent to the respective start signal, at which a pulse ("event") of rotor position signal f occurs. If a measurement were made at the instant of the respective start signal, the beginning and the end of the measurement would take place, in most cases, at a point between two pulses of the rotor position signal. This would result in an inaccurate measurement. Waiting until the next pulse, however, means that complete periods between the pulses are measured, resulting in a great increase in measurement accuracy.

FIG. 23 schematically shows a calculation of rotation speed n in a rotation speed calculation function 270. Function 270 receives as input, at time intervals having an average duration T_A , the number N of pulses and the time Δt required for that number N. Function 270 calculates therefrom a rotation speed datum n as the quotient of number N and time Δt :

$$n = N / \Delta t \quad (3)$$

INCORPORATING THE MODULO FUNCTION INTO THE MEASUREMENT

FIG. 24 shows rotor 32' (of a motor M_2) having two marks 291 and 292, and rotor position sensor 61. Marks 291 and 292 are offset by approximately 180° mech.

Rotor position 61 senses a rotor position signal f by means of marks 291 and 292. Rotor position signal f has pulses resulting from mark 291 (shown in solid white) at points 276, 278, 280, and 282, and pulses resulting from mark 292 (shown in solid black) at points 275, 277, 279, and 281. Between each two "white" pulses and between each two "black" pulses, rotor 32' has rotated once.

Since the pulses generated by marks 291 and 292 cannot be distinguished, it may be stated more generally that one complete revolution of rotor 32' takes place between each pulse and the next pulse but one (e.g. between $N = 1$ and $N = 3$).

The following considerations underlie the measurement of rotation speed n of rotor 32' in FIG. 24:

Marks 291, 292 can never be arranged absolutely symmetrically. If it is assumed that mark 291 is located at 0° mech., mark 292 would need to be located exactly at 180° mech. Due to mechanical defects, however, it may be positioned at, for example, 183° mech. This would result, for the case of a measurement that begins at point 276 (mark 291) and ends at point 281 (mark 292), in a measurement error, since the angular range being measured is then not an exact multiple of 180° mech.

To solve this problem, only complete revolutions are measured in each case in FIG. 24; i.e. measurement always takes place between marks of the same type, so that an exact multiple of 360° mech. is always measured. The measurement that begins at 276 (i.e. after starting pulse 271) therefore ends not at point 281 but at point 282, which is the next point after start signal 273 at which one complete revolution (considering the measurement to have started at point 276) has once again taken place.

This condition can be described mathematically using the MODULO (mod) function; for example,

$$N \bmod 2 = 0 \quad (4)$$

means that when the value N is divided by 2, a remainder of 0 is left. For example, $0 \bmod 2 = 0$, $1 \bmod 2 = 1$, $2 \bmod 2 = 0$, $3 \bmod 2 = 1$, etc.

Similarly, $0 \bmod 4 = 0$, $1 \bmod 4 = 1$, $2 \bmod 4 = 2$, $3 \bmod 4 = 3$, and $4 \bmod 4 = 0$, etc.

In FIG. 24, "N mod 2" appears at 283 below pulses 275 through 282, and a measurement ends/starts, for example, only if a measurement is requested by means of a start signal 271, 273 and additionally if the condition $N \bmod 2 = 0$ is met. Stated more generally, in FIG. 24 the value of $N \bmod 2$ must be the same at the beginning and at the end of the measurement.

If a rotor has a number of marks A, the condition stated in equation (4) is then generally

$$N \bmod A = 0$$

or

$$N \bmod A = \text{const.} \quad (5)$$

The variable A will be referred to hereinafter as MOD_f, i.e. $A = \text{MOD_f}$, and equation (5) then becomes

$$N \bmod \text{MOD_f} = 0$$

or

$$N \bmod \text{MOD_f} = \text{const.} \quad (5a)$$

The first mark either can be selected by means of a particular signal, or the first measured signal can be selected as a pulse with $N = 0$. This will be clarified even further in the explanation referring to FIG. 13.

The measurement thus occurs either, as shown in FIG. 24, between "white" pulses or, as depicted on the right side of FIG. 15, between "black" pulses. In the example of FIG. 24, the measurement is accomplished between pulses 276 and 282. $N = 6$ pulses are counted in this case, and the time offset between pulses 276 and 282 is ascertained and equals $\Delta t(276-282)$. A rotation

speed datum n is then calculated from these two values using equation (3).

Let it be emphasized that in reality there are no "white" or "black" pulses; rather these are a didactic aid for explanation of one aspect of the invention.

5 WHAT HAPPENS WHEN INTERFERENCE PULSES OCCUR?

FIG. 25 shows, by analogy with FIG. 24, a rotor 32' having two marks 781 and 782, and rotor position sensor 61. Rotor position signal f comprises events in the form of pulses at points 717, 718, 719, ..., 728. The pulses are generated alternately by white mark 781 and black mark 782 as the latter rotate past rotor position sensor 61, and are therefore, for better comprehension, depicted in white and black. In addition, an interference pulse S occurs between pulses 720 and 721. Control signals 711, 713, and 715 for requesting a measurement are also depicted.

10 Beneath the pulses, the value of counter N for the number of pulses is indicated in row 732, and the result of the calculation of $N \bmod 2$ is shown in row 730.

15 A measurement normally ends/begins whenever a measurement is requested by means of a control signal 711, 713, or 715, and the value of $N \bmod 2$ is also equal to zero, i.e. when rotor 32' has rotated an integral multiple of one revolution since the last measurement.

20 The result of interference pulse S is that in the context of the measurement in the time period $\Delta t(718-723)$, it is assumed that rotor 32' has completed one entire revolution between pulses 720 and 721, even though it has completed only half a revolution. As a result, after control signal 713, measurement occurs not at the "white" signal 722 but at the "black" signal 723, since after interference pulse S , it is no longer at the "white" pulses but at the "black" pulses that $N \bmod 2$ has a value of zero.

Measurement is already proceeding correctly again in the following time period $\Delta t(723-727)$, however, since measurement is now occurring at each of the "black" pulses. What occurs as a result of interference pulse S is therefore a displacement of the position of rotor 32' at which measurement takes place. The same would be true if a pulse were missing. The measurement method thus continues to work correctly after an incorrect signal S, and once again measures a multiple of one complete revolution. This represents an important advantage of this embodiment.

FIG. 10 shows a state diagram for measurement of the actual frequency. The state diagram comprises four states S1, S2, S3, and S4, and six transitions T1, T2, ..., T6.

Each transition has an event and an action associated with it.

Table 1 below shows the associated event and associated action for each transition.

Transition	Event	Action
T1	Interrupt due to edge of signal f	Read and store TIMER1, increment INT_CNT_f
T2	Interrupt due to TIMER0 after time T_A	Enable actual value and setpoint calculation and controller
T3	Interrupt due to edge of signal f	Read and store TIMER1, increment INT_CNT_f
T4	INT_CNT_f mod MOD_f = 0	Calculate t_MEAS_f, INT_MEAS_f, start CALC n
T5	Instantaneous	None
T6	Instantaneous	Prepare for new measurement

FIG. 11 shows a related diagram with an example of a procedure for measuring setpoint frequency f_s and actual frequency f .

FIG. 11A shows interrupts 161, 163, 165 of a timer TIMER0 (in μC 23) which are triggered in each case after a time T_A , e.g. $T_A = 25$ ms.

FIG. 11B shows setpoint frequency f_s which is delivered to μC 32, e.g. from frequency generator 20 (FIG. 1). At each of points 167, 169, and 171, the two variables INT_MEAS_f_s (for the number of edges since the last measurement) and t_MEAS_f_s are forwarded to the setpoint calculation function along with the instant of the present measurement determined by means of timer TIMER1. The numbers in parentheses designate the particular instant or time range to which the particular value applies. At instant 169, for example, the value INT_MEAS_f_s(167-169) which contains the number of edges in the range from 167 to 169, and the value t_MEAS_f_s(169) which contains the instant of the measurement at 169, are forwarded to setpoint calculation function CALC_n_s S620 (FIG. 8).

FIG. 11C shows, by analogy with FIG. 11B, actual frequency f that is detected by rotor position sensor 61. INT_MEAS_f and t_MEAS_f are determined at points 175, 177, and 179.

The frequency measurement procedure will now be explained with reference to FIG. 10, Table 1, and FIG. 11. The measurements of setpoint frequency f_s and actual frequency proceed according to the same pattern. The measurement principle will therefore be explained first with reference to the measurement of actual frequency f .

MEASURING ACTUAL FREQUENCY f

At instant $t = 0$ selected arbitrarily in FIG. 11, the actual value measurement function is in state S1.

At each edge 110 (FIG. 4B) of f , a Hall interrupt 630 (FIG. 8) is triggered, with the following results:

- Hall interrupt routine S631 (FIG. 13) is triggered by Hall interrupt 630;

- in Hall interrupt routine S631, counter INT_CNT_f for the number of edges is incremented by a value INC_f, e.g. INC_f = 1 (S322 in FIG. 13);
- the instantaneous value of ring counter TIMER1 is stored in Hall interrupt S631 (S322 in FIG. 13).

5 In the state diagram (FIG. 10), this is depicted as transition T1 from state S1 to S1. The event here is a Hall interrupt 630 triggered by an edge 110, and the action consists in counting edge 110 in edge counter INT_CNT_f, and storing the instantaneous value of ring counter TIMER1.

10 A different event triggers transition T2 from state S1 to state S2. The event is an occurrence of a TIMER0 interrupt triggered by timer TIMER0. TIMER0 triggers a TIMER0 interrupt 683 at defined intervals T_A (FIG. 11A), e.g. at points 161, 163, 165. In the associated interrupt routine TIMER0 Interrupt S639 (FIGS. 8 and 12), actual value calculation, setpoint calculation, and the controller are enabled. TIMER0 defines successive
15 windows having a width T_A.

20 The actual measurement of INT_MEAS_f and t_MEAS_f will then take place. As is apparent from points 175, 177, and 179, the measurement in question takes place not precisely at instants 161, 163, and 165 when requested, but at a suitable instant that is usually slightly later in time than the instant of the request.

25 Edges 110 of signal f are also sensed in state S2, and at each edge 110 a transition T3 from S2 to S2 (analogous to T1) takes place, in which the instantaneous value of ring counter TIMER1 is read out and stored, and edge counter INT_CNT_f is incremented.

30 One further condition must be met in order for values INT_MEAS_f and t_MEAS_f finally to be measured. The poles of a permanent-magnet rotor having, for example, four poles usually do not have an extension (pole width) of exactly 90° mech., but deviate slightly therefrom. The sum of all the pole angles always, however, equals 360° mech. It is therefore advantageous, for example in the context of a measurement with Hall sensors, to measure only

every complete revolution, i.e. every fourth edge in the case of a four-pole rotor, since this ensures that measurement always takes place exactly at the same point on rotor 32. For a more detailed explanation, please see the description of FIG. 24.

5 The number of edges 110 of signal f is counted in variable INT_CNT_f, and the condition that, in the case of a four-pole rotor, a multiple of complete revolutions is always measured can be met, based on the description of FIG. 24 and equation (5), if

$$\text{INT_CNT_f mod } 4 = 0 \quad (5')$$

10 or alternatively if

$$\text{INT_CNT_f mod } 8 = 0;$$

in the latter case, measurement always occurs, at the earliest, after two complete revolutions or a multiple thereof. If $\text{INT_CNT_f mod } 12 = 0$, measurement would occur at the earliest after three complete revolutions, etc. The dynamics of a controller would thereby be impaired, however.

15 For a six-pole rotor, it would correspondingly be possible to work with, for example, $\text{INT_CNT_f mod } 6 = 0$, or with $\text{INT_CNT_f mod } 12 = 0$.

20 Therefore, if the number of edges is a multiple of MOD_f (in this case $\text{MOD_f} = 4$), in FIG. 10 a transition T4 from S2 to S3 takes place; the number of edges sensed since the last measurement, which is stored in INT_CNT_f, is stored in INT_MEAS_f (S330 in FIG. 13); and the instant of the present measurement is stored in t_MEAS_f. The values INT_MEAS_f and t_MEAS_f are then transferred to actual rotation speed calculation function CALC_n S616, which is depicted in FIG. 15.

25 In FIG. 11, for example, if after TIMER0 interrupt 163 at actual frequency f a multiple of $\text{MOD_f} = 4$ edges - i.e. in this case, for example, eight edges ($8 \bmod 4 = 0$) - has been sensed at instant 177, then the number of edges since the last measurement is stored in INT_MEAS_f(175-177) for instant 177, and instant 177 of the present measurement is stored in
30 t_MEAS_f(177).

From the present value $t_MEAS_f(177)$ and the stored value $t_MEAS_f(175)$ of the last measurement, it is possible to determine the time $\Delta t_MEAS_f(175-177)$ required for the edges counted in variable $INT_MEAS_f(175-177)$.

5 An alternative possibility for determining the time Δt_MEAS_f is to reset the time to zero at the beginning of each measurement. This can be done, for example, by setting timer $TIMER1$ to zero. At the end of the measurement, the time then corresponds to the value Δt_MEAS_f . As a result, INT_MEAS_f and Δt_MEAS_f are available directly at points 175, 177, and 10 179. A disadvantage of resetting $TIMER1$ is the difficulty of then using it simultaneously for other measurements, so that further counters may be required; this is not excluded, however, in the context of the present invention.

15 From state $S3$, in which the last measurement is completed, an instantaneous transition $T5$ leads to state $S4$, in which a new measurement begins.

20 From state $S4$ an instantaneous transition $T6$ leads to state $S1$, and the frequency measurement procedure is once again in the initial state $S1$. During $T6$, the next measurement is prepared; for example, counter INT_CNT_f (for the number of edges 110) is reset back to zero.

MEASURING SETPOINT FREQUENCY f_s

25 The $TIMER0$ interrupts 638 at points 161, 163, and 165 request both an actual frequency measurement and a setpoint frequency measurement. The measurement of setpoint frequency f_s proceeds in conformity with the measurement of the actual frequency, which is evident from the flow charts that follow.

The designations of the variables for setpoint acquisition are identical to those for actual value acquisition, except that an " $_s$ " suffix is added; for example, $INT_MEAS_f_s$ rather than INT_MEAS_f .

30 It may once again be advisable to measure a multiple of a fixed number of edges when defining a setpoint frequency f_s . For example, deviations may occur within one period of setpoint frequency f_s . A measurement of, for

example, at least two edges in each case may therefore be advantageous.
Edge counter INT_CNT_f_s must then be checked using $\text{INT_CNT_f_s} \bmod 2 = 0$.

Measurement as defined in FIGS. 10 and 11 has several advantages.

With interrupt-based measurements, the rotation speed can be
determined by measuring the time since the previous interrupt (either at
each interrupt or after a fixed number of interrupts) and calculating the
rotation speed therefrom. This means that as the rotation speed increases,
new measured values that must be processed arrive with increasing
frequency. At very high rotation speeds, this would result in an overload
of $\mu\text{C } 23$ so that individual measured values would not be taken into
account.

With the present measurement method, a new measurement is initiated
each time at defined intervals T_A . The load on $\mu\text{C } 23$ is thus the same at
all rotation speeds and frequencies.

The present method moreover has the advantage that when signals f and
 f_s are measured, measurement occurs at least up to the next interrupt.
Measurement therefore does not occur at some instant that lies, for
example, in between two edges; instead, measurement always takes place from
edge to edge, greatly increasing measurement accuracy.

A further increase in measurement accuracy is obtained by always
measuring a multiple of MOD_f or MOD_f_s edges, thereby eliminating, for
example, measurement errors resulting from magnetization defects in a
permanent-magnet rotor or from symmetry errors in the setpoint frequency
definition. This means, for example in the case of a four-pole motor, that
a measurement takes place at the earliest at the fourth, eighth, 12th, etc.
edge, i.e. whenever $X \bmod 4 = 0$ (with a four-pole rotor, four edges 110 are
generated for each revolution).

An additional great advantage is the fact that both the actual value
measurement and the setpoint measurement are started at each expiration of
a time T_A , since the results of the two measurements are thus available to
controller function RGL practically simultaneously. If a measurement were
made

after each edge, the signal would be measured more often as the frequency increased; this would be less favorable in terms of downline processing.

The use of the same timer (TIMER1) for measuring f and f_s is extraordinarily advantageous, since an inaccuracy in the timer does not result in any inaccuracy in the time ratio between the measurements of f and f_s. Frequencies f and f_s are thus measured with the same time track. A measurement procedure of this kind very advantageously makes possible frequency-controlled rotation speed control with a gearbox function. A measurement of this kind using the same timer is described below with reference to an example.

TIMER1 is preferably configured as a ring counter that runs continuously.

FLOW CHARTS FOR MEASUREMENT OF f AND f_s

FIGS. 12 through 14 show flow charts pertaining to a program for the measurement procedure described in FIGS. 10 and 11.

FIG. 12 shows routine TIMER0 Interrupt S639 (FIG. 8) which, after each time T_A (FIG. 11), requests actual value measurement "MEAS f" 147 (FIG. 7), setpoint measurement "MEAS f_s" 141 (FIG. 7), and digital rotation speed controller n-CTRL 35 (FIGS. 1 and 7) constituted by RGL_ON S624 and RGL S628 (both FIG. 8).

The following variables are used:

CNT_T_A Internal counter for time T_A

T_A_TIME Limit value for new measurement

DO_MEAS_f Flag to call actual value measurement

DO_MEAS_f_s Flag to call setpoint measurement

FCT_RGL_ON Function register bit of function RGL_ON S624 (cf. FIG. 9).

Routine TIMER0 Interrupt S639 depicted in FIG. 12 is executed each time a TIMER0 interrupt 638 (FIG. 8) occurs.

In S352 any additional steps not discussed here can be run through, if TIMER0 is additionally intended to control other program sections.

A subtimer Subtimer_T_A begins in S354. "Subtimer" means that the actual action in S360 is triggered by steps S356, S358, and S362 (explained below) only after a specific number of TIMER0 interrupts. The advantage of this is that timer TIMER0 can also be used for other duties that need to be called more frequently.

In S356, internal counter CNT_T_A is incremented by 1.

S358 checks whether counter CNT_T_A is greater than or equal to the value T_A_TIME (defined above).

If No, execution branches immediately to the end S364, and leaves the TIMER0 Interrupt routine with the instruction "RETI."

If, however, it is found in S358 that counter CNT_T_A has reached the value T_A_TIME, then in S360 DO_MEAS_f_s, DO_MEAS_f, and FCT_RGL_ON are set to 1.

DO_MEAS_f_s = 1 informs interrupt routine f_s Interrupt S635 (FIG. 14) that a measurement of setpoint frequency f_s is to be started. DO_MEAS_f = 1 informs interrupt routine Hall Interrupt S631 (FIG. 13) that a measurement of actual frequency f is to be started. FCT_RGL = 1 starts start function RGL_ON S624 (FIG. 17), which determines when controller function RGL S628 (FIG. 18) is started.

An example: if TIMER0 Interrupt is triggered every 10 microseconds, and the value T_A_TIME = 2500, the call in S360 takes place every 25 ms.

Time T_A must be adapted to the particular motor. For example, if rotor position sensor 61 produces many events for each revolution of rotor 32, and if rotor 32 is rotating quickly, T_A can be made shorter. If rotor 32 is

rotating slowly, however, T_A must then be made longer, e.g. T_A = 250 ms. Frequency f_s must be considered in the same fashion.

In S362, counter CNT_T_A is reset back to zero in order to restart subtimer Subtimer_T_A.

In FIG. 11, S360 is called at points 161, 163, and 165.

FIG. 13 shows an exemplary embodiment of interrupt routine Hall Interrupt S631, which is executed at each interrupt triggered by the occurrence of an edge 110 (FIG. 4B) of signal f. This interrupt is so designated because it is usually triggered by the signal of a Hall generator 61. FIG. 29 shows an example of this. Of course it could also be triggered by the signal of an optical or mechanical sensor, and it could also be referred to as a "sensor-controlled" interrupt.

In this example, routine Hall Interrupt S631 provides commutation of an electronically commutated motor 32 in steps S304 through S314, and measurement of actual frequency f in steps S320 through S332.

The following variables are used:

INT_CNT_f	Interrupt counter for counting the edges of signal f
INC_f	Increment value
t_END_f	Instant of last interrupt sensed
MOD_f	Number of interrupts for mod calculation (cf. equation

(5a))

t_MEAS_f	Measured time of last interrupt
INT_MEAS_f	Number of interrupts measured since last measurement
DO_MEAS_f	Flag to call actual value measurement
FCT_CALC_n	Function register bit of function CALC_n S616 (FIGS. 8

and 9).

In S302, any desired steps can be executed.

In an electronically commutated motor (such as the one schematically depicted in FIG. 29), routine Hall Interrupt S631 provides electronic commutation in COMMUT S304. This is omitted in a collector motor such as the one depicted in FIG. 6.

In S306, HALL=1? checks whether signal f (FIG. 4B) is HIGH. If Yes, then

in S308, terminal B5 of μ C 23 (FIG. 3) is set so that it triggers an interrupt at the next edge from HIGH to LOW. (Another alternative possibility is a so-called "interrupt on change," i.e. an interrupt takes place at every edge of signal HALL at port B5, regardless of direction.)

5 Lastly, in S310 commutation of motor M 32 takes place by the fact that OUT1 is set to 1 and OUT2 to 0. If it was found in S306 that HALL equaled 0, then in S312 terminal B5 is set to an opposite edge, and in S314 OUT1 is set to 0 and OUT2 to 1. Commutation using the two signals OUT1 and OUT2 has already been described exhaustively with reference to FIG. 29.

10 Sensing and measurement of signal f begin in MEAS_f S320. In S322, interrupt counter INT_CNT_f, which is, for example, 1 byte long, is incremented by the value INC_f, e.g. INC_f = 1, and the value t_TIMER1 of TIMER1 is stored in t_END_f. Both the number of interrupts and the instantaneous time are thus sensed.

15 In S324, $\text{INT_CNT_f} \bmod \text{MOD_f} = 0$ is used to check whether the value in interrupt counter INT_CNT_f is a multiple of MOD_f. For MOD_f = 4, for example, INT_CNT_f = 20 is a multiple of MOD_f, i.e. $20 \bmod 4 = 0$. If INT_CNT_f is not a multiple of MOD_f, execution then branches to the end S334 of the interrupt routine. If INT_CNT_f is a multiple of MOD_f, S326 then checks whether DO_MEAS_f = 1, i.e. whether a measurement of actual frequency f was requested in step S360 of interrupt routine TIMER0 Interrupt S639 (FIG. 12). If No, then no measurement is to take place, and execution branches to the end S334. If Yes, then in S328 function register bit FCT_CALC_n is used to check whether the last rotation speed calculation is already complete. If FCT_CALC_n = 1, execution branches to the end S334. This prevents measurements from being lost if rotation speed calculation routine "CALC_n" S616 requires too much time. This special case does not, however, occur in normal operation.

20 In S330, variables t_MEAS_f and INT_MEAS_f, which are transferred to rotation speed calculation routine CALC_n S616 (FIG. 15), are set.

25 This is done by setting t_MEAS_f to the last timer value t_END_f of ring

counter TIMER1 that was sensed, setting INT_MEAS_f to the value of interrupt counter INT_CNT_f, and resetting INT_CNT_f to zero.

In S332, rotation speed calculation routine CALC_n S616 (FIG. 15) is requested by setting FCT_CALC_n to 1; and the measurement request is reset by resetting DO_MEAS_f to zero, since the measurement is complete.

Routines TIMER0 Interrupt S639 (FIG. 12) and HALL Interrupt S631 (FIG. 13) thus together constitute a measurement of actual frequency f in accordance with the state diagram of FIG. 10.

If μ C 23 does not have the capability for the mod operation, there are other possibilities.

In many μ Cs, an integral division using "div" yields as the result both the integral quotient and the non-negative remainder. For example, the result of 7 div 4 is a quotient 1 and remainder 3. In these μ Cs, the div operation can be used to calculate the remainder.

A further possibility for calculating X mod MOD_f is, for example, to use a further variable MOD_CNT which is also incremented at each incrementing of variable X, and which is reset to zero each time MOD_f is reached. The MOD_CNT variable then contains the result of X mod MOD_f.

FIG. 14 shows an example of interrupt routine f_s Interrupt S635.

This is configured, except for the absence of the commutation portion (steps S304 through S314), like interrupt routine HALL Interrupt S631 (FIG. 13), and therefore will not be described again. The reference characters of the steps are increased by 100, so that, for example, step S332 of FIG. 13 corresponds to step S432 of FIG. 14.

The following variables are used:

INT_CNT_f_s Interrupt counter for counting the edges of the setpoint frequency

INC_f_s Increment value

t_END_f_s Instant of last interrupt sensed

MOD_f_s Number of interrupts for mod calculation

t_MEAS_f_s Measured time of last interrupt

INT_MEAS_f_s Number of interrupts since last measurement

DO_MEAS_f_s Flag to call setpoint measurement

FCT_CALC_n_s Function register bit for function CALC_n_s S620.

FIG. 15 shows routine CALC_n S616, which is requested by routine Hall Interrupt (S332 in FIG. 13) after the measurement of timer value t_MEAS_f and of the number of edges 110 (FIG. 4) of signal f in INT_MEAS_f.

The following variables are used:

Δt_CALC_f Time difference from last measurement

t_OLD_f Instant of last measurement

t_MEAS_f Instant of present measurement

INT_CALC_f Number of interrupts since last measurement, for calculation

INT_MEAS_f Number of interrupts transferred since last measurement

n Rotation speed of motor M

REM_n Remainder of integral division

h Exponent for parameterization of INT_CALC_f

REM_n_OLD Remainder of integral division at last calculation.

In S370, the difference between timer value t_OLD_f for the last measurement and present timer value t_MEAS_f is calculated, and is stored in variable Δt_CALC_f, which corresponds to value [Δ]t_MEAS_f of FIG. 11. In the context of a ring counter, the difference is usually obtained using the two's complement. Present timer value t_MEAS_f is then stored in t_OLD_f for the next measurement, and the measured number of interrupts INT_MEAS_f is stored in INT_CALC_f.

In S372, a calculation is made of rotation speed n, which is proportional to the quotient of the number of interrupts INT_CALC_f (an indication of the number of revolutions) and the time Δt_CALC_f required therefor. The formula is

$$n = \text{const} * \text{INT_CALC_f} / \Delta t_CALC_f \quad (6)$$

where const is a proportionality constant.

An integral division div, which yields as the result an integral quotient n and positive remainder REM_n, is used to calculate rotation speed n. See FIG. 13 for a description of the div operator.

In addition, interrupt counter INT_CALC_f, which in this exemplary embodiment is, for example, 4 bytes long, is parameterized with a factor 2^h , e.g. $h = 24$. Any other factor can, of course, also be selected instead of 2^h . Multiplication by 2^h can, however, in preferred fashion, be replaced by displacement of the value h places to the left.

Parameterization results in good resolution, for example in a 16-bit context, of the rotation speeds resulting from division. The exponent h must, for this purpose, be matched to the particular motor.

Calculation of the rotation speed for the region between points 175 and 177 of FIG. 11 is shown below as an example:

INT_MEAS_f has a length of one byte, INT_CALC_f four bytes, and Δt_CALC_f two bytes.

INT_MEAS_f(175-177) here has a value of 8, i.e. eight edges 110 of signal f (FIG. 11C) have been counted since the last measurement at instant t_MEAS_f(175). In S370 INT_CALC_f has the value INT_MEAS_f(175-177) = 8 assigned to it. In S372, using $h = 19$, INT_CALC_f is parameterized with $2^{19} = 524,288$, and acquires a value of 4,194,304.

$\Delta t_MEAS_f(175-177)$ has a value of 26,700, corresponding (if the resolution of ring counter TIMER1 is 1 microsecond) to a time of 26.7 milliseconds. In S370, Δt_CALC_f has assigned to it a value of 26,700, resulting from the difference between the old and present measurements.

Dividing INT_CALC_f by Δt_CALC_f yields a rotation speed $n = 157$ and remainder REM_n 2404.

The physical rotation speed n_{phys} corresponds to the number of revolutions per minute. 8 Hall changes divided by 4 Hall changes per revolution (four-pole rotor) yields 2 revolutions, and time required therefor is 0.0267 s. This yields a physical rotation speed $n_{phys} = 2 / 0.0267 = 74.906$ revolutions per second = 4494.4 rpm.

The remainder REM_n_OLD of the previous rotation speed calculation is also taken into account in the calculation, by adding it to the product of INT_CALC_f and $const_f$.

In the above example, for instance, the calculated rotation speed n deviates slightly from the actual rotation speed, since division yields the whole number 157 rather than the actual result of approximately 157.09. The difference is not lost, however, but is taken into account in the subsequent division in S372 by adding remainder REM_n_OLD of the previous division to the numerator.

The advantageous result of taking into account remainder REM_n_OLD is that no information is lost; and it results in a measurable improvement in the controller if it is used.

After the calculation of n and REM_n , in S372 remainder REM_n is stored in REM_n_OLD for the next calculation.

In S374, function register bit FCT_CALC_n (FIG. 9; FIG. 13, S332) is reset back to zero, since the rotation speed calculation is complete.

Execution then branches back to the beginning S602 of the function manager (FIG. 8).

FIG. 16 shows a flow chart for calculating rotation speed setpoint n_s .

The following variables are used:

t_CALC_f_s Time difference from last measurement
t_OLD_f_s Instant of last measurement
t_MEAS_f_s Instant of present measurement
INT_CALC_f_s Number of interrupts since last measurement, for

5 calculation

INT_MEAS_f_s Number of interrupts transferred since last measurement

n_s Rotation speed setpoint (desired rotation speed of motor M)

REM_n_s Remainder of integral division

10 h_s Exponent for parameterization of INT_CALC_f_s

REM_n_s_OLD Remainder of integral division at last calculation.

The calculation of rotation speed setpoint n_s is identical to the calculation of rotation speed n as shown in FIG. 15. The reference characters of FIG. 16 correspond to those of FIG. 15 with 100 added to them. Value h_s for the parameterization of INT_CALC_f is normally selected to be identical to value h of FIG. 15, since the rotation speed setpoint and actual rotation speed should be comparable. Selecting h_s to be not equal to h would make relative parameterization possible, but this is normally not chosen.

20 To avoid excessive length, the steps of FIG. 16 will not be described again. The reader is referred to FIG. 15 and its accompanying description.

Since the measurements of setpoint frequency f_s and actual frequency f proceed in the same manner and in quasi-parallel fashion, a value for rotation speed setpoint n_s and a value for rotation speed n are present after each measurement triggered by the TIMER0 interrupt. Values n and n_s are comparable because the times were measured, practically simultaneously, using the same timer TIMER1. In addition, they are very accurate because of the measurement methods used.

OVERALL CONTROLLER

30 STARTING THE CONTROLLER WITH FUNCTION RGL_ON

FIG. 17 shows a flow chart for an exemplary embodiment of function RGL_ON S624 of FIG. 8, which determines when controller function RGL S628 (FIG. 18) is started.

Since the sensing and measurement of actual frequency f and setpoint frequency f_s , and thus also the calculation of rotation speed n and rotation speed setpoint n_s , proceed independently of one another and do not end at the same instant, a determination must be made in function RGL_ON S624 as to when controller function RGL S628 is started. In this exemplary embodiment, controller function RGL S628 is started when both actual rotation speed calculation routine CALC_n S616 and rotation speed setpoint calculation routine CALC_n_s S620 are complete.

The following variables are used:

FCT_CALC_n_s Function register bit for function CALC_n_s S620
(cf. FIG. 9)
FCT_CALC_n Function register bit for function CALC_n S616 (cf. FIG. 9)
FCT_RGL Function register bit for function RGL S628 (cf. FIG. 9)
FCT_RGL_ON Function register bit for function RGL_ON S624 (cf. FIG. 9).

In S390, function register bit FCT_CALC_n_s is used to check whether rotation speed setpoint calculation CALC_n_s S620 is ready. If No, execution branches back to the beginning S602 of the function manager (FIG. 8). If Yes, then in S392, function register bit FCT_CALC_n checks whether rotation speed calculation routine CALC_n S616 is complete. If No, execution branches back to the beginning S602 of the function manager. If Yes, then both rotation speed n and rotation speed setpoint n_s are present, and controller function RGL S628 is requested by setting function register bit FCT_RGL to 1. Function register bit FCT_RGL_ON is reset to zero, since function RGL_ON S624 has been executed.

Controller function RGL S628 is therefore not started until rotation speed setpoint n_s and rotation speed n have been calculated.

CONTROLLER FUNCTION RGL WITH "ELECTRONIC GEARBOX"

FIG. 18 shows a flow chart for an embodiment of controller function RGL S628 (FIG. 8) which calculates a control output RGL_VAL from rotation speed n and rotation speed setpoint n_s , and outputs it.

The following variables are used:

RGL_DIFF System deviation
X Gearbox factor
RGL_PROP Proportional component
RGL_P Proportional factor
RGL_INT Integral component
RGL_I Integral factor
RGL_VAL Control output calculated by controller
RGL_MAX Maximum control output.

In S530, system deviation RGL_DIFF is calculated as

$$\text{RGL_DIFF} := n_s * X - n \quad (7)$$

Multiplying rotation speed setpoint n_s by X implements a gearbox function. If $X = 2$, for example, rotation speed setpoint n_s will correspond to half the desired rotation speed n of motor 32, in other words, motor M will run exactly twice as fast as rotation speed setpoint n_s ; and if $X = 1/2$, for example, rotation speed setpoint n_s will correspond to twice the rotation speed n , i.e. motor M will rotate at half the value of the rotation speed defined by n_s . This is explained below using a quantitative example.

This step establishes a specific ratio

$$n / n_s = X \quad (8)$$

between rotation speed n and rotation speed setpoint n_s . This also means a fixed ratio, for example

$$f_s / f = y/z \quad (1)$$

between actual frequency and setpoint frequency f_s , as explained in FIG. 1.

As is directly evident from S530, the system deviation could also be calculated differently, e.g. using the equation

$$\text{RGL_DIFF} := n_s - Y * n \quad (7a)$$

as indicated at 145' in FIG. 7,

or using the equation

$$\text{RGL_DIFF} := A * n_s - B * n \quad (7b)$$

or using a suitable mathematical function, for example $\ln(n_s)$, or a time function, e.g.

$$\text{RGL_DIFF} := (n_s * \sin t) - n \quad (7c)$$

in which case the rotation speed would oscillate periodically between the positive rotation speed (n_s) and the negative rotation speed $-(n_s)$. This requires, of course, a motor that can run in both rotation directions. A motor 32" of this kind is depicted as an example in FIG. 29. Most electronically commutated motors run in both rotation directions and are suitable for such applications.

It is also possible to introduce a gearbox factor by, for example, counting only every second "event" to obtain setpoint frequency f_s ; and the same applies analogously to actual frequency f . Since numerical values are being compared to one another, any kind of known mathematical manipulation of those numerical values is possible, particular advantages always being yielded in individual cases.

Several further possibilities for embodying an "electronic gearbox" will be presented and explained below.

The multiplication of n_s by X can be performed, for example, as a fixed-point multiplication. In fixed-point multiplication, variable X is assumed to have a decimal point at a fixed location, so that the bits to the right of the decimal point correspond to multiplication by $1/2$, $1/4$, etc. The advantage of fixed-point multiplication is that places after the decimal point are not lost.

QUANTITATIVE EXAMPLE

A frequency f_s corresponding to a rotation speed setpoint of 3000 rpm is delivered from setpoint generator 20 (FIG. 1). Motor 32 needs, however, to run with a gearbox factor X that equals 0.5, i.e. at 1500 rpm.

In part 143 in FIG. 7 (corresponding to the flow charts in FIGS. 14 and 15), a rotation speed setpoint n_s of 3000.00 rpm is calculated from frequency f_s . The number 300,000 (corresponding to 493E0 in hexadecimal) is used internally in the computer because of its higher accuracy. This number is multiplied by the gearbox factor $X = 0.5$, and the hexadecimal value 249F0 is obtained as setpoint $X * n_s$.

Motor 32 is rotating at the moment at 1499.99 rpm. The number 149,999 (as the hexadecimal number 249EF) is used in the computer because of its higher accuracy. This corresponds in FIG. 7 to the actual rotation speed n .

System deviation RGL_DIFF is then calculated in system deviation calculator 151 in S530 (FIG. 18), i.e.

$$n_s * X - n = 249F0 - 249EF = 1 \text{ (decimal)}$$

(the value 1 is indicated in the decimal system to improve comprehension). Since the values for $X * n_s$ and n had, in this example, previously been multiplied by 100, this value must be divided by 100 again; i.e. the actual value of the system deviation is $1/100 = 0.01$ rpm.

This numerical value is further processed in S532 (FIG. 18) in the PI controller; and since the rotation speed is slightly too low, variable RGL_VAL is increased by the PI controller to bring the rotation speed to exactly 1500 rpm.

Steps S534 through S540 hold variable RGL_VAL within the permissible limits 0 and RGL_MAX.

Thus, although a setpoint of 3000 rpm was defined as frequency f_s, the motor is controlled to 1500 rpm because a "gearbox factor" X of 0.5 is set. A different gearbox factor, e.g. 0.333, could also be set in similar fashion, and the motor would then be regulated to 1000 rpm.

It is also apparent from this example that one could just as easily leave the value for n_s unchanged, and instead multiply the value for n by 2 (in this example). The value for the system deviation would then be twice as great, but the control process would proceed in the same way.

The ratio n / n_s can also, additionally or alternatively, be influenced in the context of frequency measurement and rotation speed calculation by, for example, selecting different variables h (S372 in FIG. 15) and h_s (S472 in FIG. 16).

Taking into account the value of MOD_f in the measurement of actual frequency f (S324 in FIG. 13) and the value of MOD_f_s in the measurement of setpoint frequency f_s (S424 in FIG. 14) can also bring about a change in the ratio between frequencies f and f_s and thus also between rotation speeds n and n_s.

The point at which the desired ratio between rotation speeds n and n_s and between frequencies f and f_s is established is not significant for the

present invention. The ratio must, however, be established at a suitable point.

S352 of FIG. 18 depicts a digital PI controller.

Proportional component RGL_PROP is calculated by multiplying system deviation RGL_DIFF by proportional factor RGL_P.

The new integral component is calculated by adding the previous integral component to system deviation RGL_DIFF multiplied by integral factor RGL_I. Integral component RGL_INT preferably has sufficient memory available to it that no system deviation information is lost.

Control output RGL_VAL is determined from the sum of proportional component RGL_PROP and integral component RGL_INT.

A range check of control output RGL_VAL is performed in steps S534 through S540.

If control output RGL_VAL is less than zero in S534, it is then set to zero in S536.

If control output RGL_VAL is greater than the maximum permissible value RGL_MAX in S538, it is set to RGL_MAX in S540. The purpose of this is to limit control output RGL_VAL to maximum value RGL_MAX during acceleration of a motor, when large system deviations can exist.

If the value of RGL_VAL lies within a permissible range, it is used unchanged.

In S542, register PWM_SW of the PWM generator inside the μ C is set to control output RGL_VAL, and PWM signal PWM_SW is outputted as described in FIG. 5.

Controller function S628 is thus complete, and function register bit FCT_RGL is reset in S544.

Execution then branches back to the beginning S602 of the function manager (FIG. 8).

5 Instead of the PI controller just described, it is also possible to use, for example, a PID controller or a different controller. Digital controllers in which all the bits of system deviation RGL_DIFF are taken into account (as guaranteed here by integral component RGL_INT) are advantageous. Controller factors RGL_P and RGL_I can be set separately in
10 order to adapt the controller optimally to its particular task.

FIG. 19 shows a state diagram which summarizes in simple and comprehensible fashion the complex functional sequences of the previous Figures already described. Table 2 below provides the necessary explanations for this state diagram, and is largely self-explanatory (WDT means "watchdog timer").
15

FIG. 19

Transition	Result	Action	From .. to
T20	Hardware reset	Branch to program address 00h	-> M
T21	Watchdog timer reset	Branch to program address 00h	-> M
T22	Immediate state change with no event	No action	M -> N
T23	Immediate state change with no event	Initialization. (Optional) retrieval of parameters from EEPROM 80	N -> O
T24	Calculation of actual value started	Perform calculation of actual value. Reset counter INT_CALC_f. Stop and inhibit calculation of actual value.	O -> O
T25	Calculation of setpoint started	Perform calculation of setpoint. Reset counter INT_CALC_f_s. Stop and inhibit calculation of setpoint.	O -> O
T26	Calculation of setpoint and actual value stopped. Controller enabled.	Start controller	O -> O
T27	Controller started	S530 (X * n_s). Controller RGL (FIG. 18). S542 (setpoint output). S544 (stop and inhibit controller).	O -> O

In the O (idle) state, the program is ready for action and performs various

actions as required. At T24, for example, calculation of the actual frequency value is performed, counter INT_CALC_f is reset, and the actual value calculation is then inhibited until a new measurement has been performed. At transition T25, the same actions are performed for the setpoint.

At T26 the calculations of the setpoint and actual value are stopped, and controller RGL (FIG. 18) is started. The controller is then started at T27. In step S530, gearbox ratio X is taken into account. The calculations in the PI controller are performed, the control output is outputted in S542, and in S544 the controller is stopped and temporarily inhibited until new values are available after the next measurement.

States M and N usually are passed through only upon startup, since a hardware reset takes place at that time. If the watchdog (not depicted) detects any irregular behavior of μC 23, actions T21, T22, and T23 are performed in order to return μC 23 to its normal operating state O.

EXAMPLE OF A CONTROLLER CAPABLE OF A ROTATION SPEED SETPOINT $n_s = 0$

FIG. 20 shows a state diagram for a controller in which a rotation speed setpoint $n_s = 0$ can also be set.

Function RGL_ON S624 of FIG. 17 waits to start controller function RGL S628 until a value is present both for rotation speed setpoint n_s and for rotation speed n .

This creates difficulties with motors that need also to be controlled down to a rotation speed $n = 0$, since no interrupts are triggered if signals f or f_s have a frequency of zero, because no edges of signals f and f_s are present.

The controller shown in FIG. 21 allows control to a rotation speed of zero, and therefore represents a preferred development.

The state diagram contains six states S10 to S15, and nine transitions T10 to T18.

In Table 3 below, transitions T10 to T18 are described along with their events and actions. This table, like Tables 1 and 2, is comprehensible in and of itself.

Transition	Event	Action
T10	Controller has been started by TIMER0 interrupt	RGL_ON is started; branch to S11
T11	Rotation speed setpoint n_s is present	Branch to S12
T12	Time-out time for measurement of n_s has been exceeded	n_s :=0; branch to S12
T13	Rotation speed n is present	Start controller; calculate control output; branch to S13
T14	Time-out time for measurement of n has been exceeded, and n_s = 0	n :=0; start controller; calculate control output; branch to S13
T15	Instantaneous	Output control output; branch to S14
T16	Instantaneous	Terminate controller; branch to S10
T17	Time-out time for measurement of n has been exceeded, and n_s <> 0	Output maximum control output; branch to S15
T18	Instantaneous	Terminate RGL_ON; branch to S10

In state S10, execution waits for the controller to start.

When the controller is started, for example by means of routine TIMER0 Interrupt S639 of FIG. 12, execution branches to state S11 and then waits for rotation speed setpoint n_s.

If a value for rotation speed setpoint n_s is present, transition T11 to state S12 takes place.

If, however, a time-out time has been exceeded in S11 and no value for rotation speed setpoint n_s is present, transition T12 to state S12 (in which transition T12 rotation speed setpoint n_s is set to zero) then takes place.

In state S12, execution waits for rotation speed n of motor M. If a value for n is present, transition T13 to S13 takes place, controller function RGL S628 is started, and a new control output RGL_VAL is calculated.

From state S13, an instantaneous transition T15 to S14 takes place, and the calculated control output RGL_VAL is outputted.

From state S14, an instantaneous transition T16 to S10 takes place,

and execution waits for the new start.

If a time-out time is exceeded in state S12, the motor has a rotation speed $n = 0$.

A distinction is made between two cases when $n = 0$. If rotation speed setpoint n_s is also equal to zero, transition T14 to S13 takes place and controller RGL S628 calculates a new control output RGL_VAL.

If, however, rotation speed $n = 0$ and rotation speed setpoint n_s is not equal to zero, then either motor M is jammed or it needs to be started. A transition T17 to S15 takes place, and a maximum control output is outputted.

From state S15, an instantaneous transition T18 to state S10 takes place, and execution waits for the next start.

FIG. 21 shows a flow chart for a routine RGL_ON2 S624' adapted to FIG. 20, i.e. for the case in which $n_s = 0$ also needs to be taken into consideration.

S500 checks whether rotation speed setpoint calculation routine CALC_ n_s S620 (FIG. 16) has been executed, i.e. whether a rotation speed setpoint n_s is present.

If Yes, execution then branches to S506.

If No, S502 then checks whether a time-out time t_{TO_s} has been exceeded since the last measurement. This is done by calculating the difference between instant $t_{END_f_s}$ of the last measurement (cf. FIG. 14) and the present instant of timer $TIMER1$, and comparing it to time-out time t_{TO_s} .

If time-out time t_{TO_s} has not yet been exceeded, execution branches to the beginning S602 of the function manager (FIG. 8), and waits for rotation speed setpoint n_s .

If time-out time t_{TO_s} has been exceeded, however, rotation speed setpoint n_s is then set to zero in S504. Instant $t_{END_f_s}$ of the last measurement is furthermore set to the instantaneous value t_{TIMER1} of $TIMER1$, so that $TIMER1$ does not exceed the value $t_{END_f_s}$. Execution then branches to S506.

S506, analogously to S500, checks whether a value for rotation speed n is present.

If Yes, then controller function RGL S628 (FIG. 18) is requested in S514 by setting function register bit FCT_RGL to 1, and routine RGL_ON2 is terminated by resetting FCT_RGL_ON to zero.

If a value for rotation speed n is not present in S506, S508 then checks, by analogy with S502, as to whether time-out time t_{TO} has been exceeded since the last measurement of rotation speed n at instant t_{END_f} .

If No, execution then branches to S602 (FIG. 8), and continues to wait for a value for rotation speed n .

If time-out time t_{TO} has been exceeded, S510 checks whether rotation speed setpoint $n_s = 0$.

If Yes, execution then branches to S514, and controller function RGL S628 is called with values $n = 0$ and $n_s = 0$.

If No, then either motor M is jammed, or it needs to be started at that time. Register PWM_SW of the PWM generator of μC 23 is therefore set in S512 to the maximum control output RGL_MAX. The value t_END_f is set, by analogy with S504, to the instantaneous timer value t_TIMER1 in order to prevent any overflow; and routine RGL_ON2 S624' is terminated by setting FCT_RGL_ON to zero and branching to S602.

This variant does not require any further modifications to be made to controller function RGL S628.

Time-out times t_TO_s and t_TO must be selected in accordance with the requirements of the controller and the motor. For example, a relatively short time-out time can be used to ensure that the motor is shut off below a defined minimum rotation speed. Many motors, for example gasoline engines, are difficult to regulate at low speeds since they then tend to oscillate, and it may be desirable in such cases not to allow these rotation speed ranges.

A typical value for t_TO is 100 ms, corresponding to a motor rotation speed of approx. 50 rpm. A value of 1000 ms would correspond to a rotation speed of approx. 5 rpm. In an electric motor, however, such a high value can result in thermal overload of the output-stage transistors (transistors 740, 744 in FIG. 29).

PARAMETERIZATION OF THE MOTOR

All the variables explained so far can be defined by the manufacturer; in other words, the manufacturer "parameterizes" the motor. The variables can be present in a nonvolatile memory, e.g. in a ROM, flash ROM, or EEPROM 80 of FIG. 3; or they can be set, for example, using DIP switches. When the motor is started, they are then loaded, for example in step INIT S602 (FIG. 8), into the RAM of μC 23.

The variables that are used can also, if applicable, be modified via bus B (FIG. 3). By way of this external bus B, the variables in EEPROM 80 can be modified if applicable. Alternatively, EEPROM 80 can be programmed by the manufacturer before it is installed. Other variables can also be programmed, for example proportional factor RGL_P of the controller, integral factor RGL_I, and the overall gain of the controller (FIG. 18). When different motors are used, this can be very important in terms of achieving optimum drive results.

The ability to influence variables MOD_f, MOD_f_s, and X is particularly important. With MOD_f and MOD_f_s it is possible to adjust the controller to different numbers of poles in the rotors used, and to different types of setpoint frequency generators 20. If f_s were generated, for example, by two-pole rotor 732 and Hall generator 61 of FIG. 29, MOD_f_s would then be set to 2 (or optionally also to 4) in order to obtain first-class control process results.

By adapting the parameters to the type of motor and setpoint generator being used, it is thus possible to use the same program for different motor types. The use of the same program for different motor types eliminates production and development costs, and the manufacturer can react very flexibly to customer needs. Distributors or preferred customers can also be permitted to program EEPROM 80 themselves, for example in the context of experiments to optimize a drive system. A password function can prevent unauthorized programming by users.

Parameterization of gearbox factor X allows the same setpoint frequency generator 20 to be used for several motors which must run with a fixed rotation speed ratio among them, although the rotation speed can differ from one motor to another. Gearbox factor X makes possible, for example, continuous tensioning during transport of a material web (e.g. plastic films or textiles), if a gearbox factor X = 1000 is selected for a first motor and a gearbox factor X = 1001 for a second motor farther ahead in the direction of

motion. This causes the second motor to run very slightly faster, thus causing tensioning of the web being transported.

Regulation by means of setpoint frequency f_s becomes more dynamic the higher the value of that frequency. With a higher setpoint frequency, however, μC 23 also experiences a greater calculation operation load. A ratio between setpoint frequency f_s and actual frequency f of $f_s:f \geq 5:1$ has proven advantageous for motors that must react quickly to changes in setpoint frequency. "Frequency" here is understood to mean the number of events per unit time, for example the number of edges 110 per second in the case of a Hall signal (FIG. 4).

FIG. 26 shows an example of the use of three motors according to the present invention. A setpoint frequency f_s is delivered from a frequency generator 180 via a line 187 to three motors 181, 183 and 185 according to the present invention. The rotor of motor 181 has two poles, that of motor 183 has four poles, and that of motor 185 has six poles. Different motors are necessary, for example, if motors with different power levels are required at various locations.

In this exemplary embodiment, all three motors are intended to run at the same rotation speed defined by the setpoint frequency. For that purpose, for example, gearbox factors $X(181)$ of motor 181, $X(183)$ of motor 183, and $X(185)$ of motor 185 are set to $X(181) = 1$, $X(183) = 2$, and $X(185) = 3$.

FIG. 27 schematically shows a photocopier unit having three motors $M1$, $M2$, and $M3$ according to the present invention, which receive a defined frequency setpoint f_s via a line 187 from a frequency generator 180. If motor $M2$, which, for example, drives a roller, requires a rotation speed different from motors $M1$ and $M3$, it can be set via a gearbox factor X .

It is advantageous for a unit of this kind if a controller as shown in FIG. 20, with which the rotation speed of the motors can be regulated to zero by means of setpoint frequency f_s , is used.

FIG. 28 shows a further exemplary embodiment having three motors M1, M2, and M3. Motor M1 emits a so-called tacho signal. A tacho signal can be generated, for example, by outputting the signal of rotor position sensor 61. Using the tacho signal, further motors M2, M3 according to the present invention can be regulated at a fixed ratio to the rotation speed of motor M1. The result, even without any special frequency generator, is that the three motors run at a fixed rotation speed ratio to one another, since motor M1 serves as a frequency generator.

In the context of the invention, therefore, a setpoint datum that is contained in the frequency of a setpoint frequency signal is delivered to a μ C. A motor for which that setpoint is determined in turn sends back a frequency signal which contains as datum the actual rotation speed of that motor. This frequency signal can come, for example, from a tachogenerator, a resolver, a sensor within the motor (e.g. a Hall generator for controlling commutation of the motor), or from other types of sensors.

The setpoint frequency and actual frequency are sensed, continuously and approximately synchronously, in the μ C and converted into numerical values that are proportional to rotation speed. These numerical values can then be manipulated with defined parameters, usually by multiplication or division. (Said parameters can be stored, for example, in an EEPROM.) What is obtained as a result is, for example, a multiple of the sensed setpoint frequency or a fraction of the sensed setpoint frequency, or a multiple of the sensed actual frequency or a fraction of the sensed actual frequency. These manipulated values are delivered to a rotation speed controller, and a gearbox function can thereby be implemented. In order to adapt or vary the control properties, it is moreover very easy to modify control parameters that influence the control behavior of the system.

The manipulated values are compared to one another in the rotation speed controller, the system deviation is determined from them and processed in a PI controller or a PID controller (as discussed in detail in S532 with reference to an example), and the control output generated in the controller is written,

for example, into a PWM register. A corresponding PWM signal is outputted as the control output and, in the exemplary embodiment described, converted with an RC filter 65, 67 into an analog DC voltage signal. The latter is delivered to an adjusting member which controls energy delivery to the motor. The motor in turn sends a defined number of pulses or other signals ("events") back to the μ C, and these provide the controller with exact digital information as to the present rotation speed of the motor.

Many modifications are, of course, possible in the context of the present invention. The gearbox factor X can be set at many points, as explained, and the actual frequency (corresponding to the actual rotation speed) can be generated in many different ways.

CLAIMS

1. A method for controlling the rotation speed of a motor
 - with which a digital rotation speed controller is associated
 - and which, during operation, furnishes an actual-value signal for the rotation speed in the form of a rotation speed frequency signal to a rotation speed setpoint defined in the form of a setpoint frequency signal,comprising the following steps:
 - in a first time segment, a first numerical frequency value that characterizes the rotation speed of the motor is ascertained from the rotation speed frequency signal;
 - in a second time segment that is substantially simultaneous with the first time segment, a second numerical frequency value that characterizes the frequency of the setpoint frequency signal is ascertained from the setpoint frequency signal;
 - by means of the first and second numerical frequency values, the rotation speed of the motor is regulated in the digital rotation speed controller to a rotation speed that is associated with the setpoint frequency signal according to a defined mathematical relationship.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein for ascertaining the numerical frequency values, a time measurement between defined events of the relevant frequency signal is performed.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein edges of the relevant frequency signal serve as events between which a time measurement takes place.
4. The method according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the same time standard is used for the time measurement for ascertaining the first numerical frequency value and for the time measurement for ascertaining the second numerical frequency value.
5. The method according to one of the foregoing claims, for determining the frequency of a frequency signal which, at a constant frequency per unit time, comprises a fixed number of events in the manner of pulses, edges, or the like,
 - comprising the following steps:
 - a) at a first predetermined instant, measurement of a frequency datum is initiated;
 - b) a second instant, at which an event of the frequency signal subsequent to the first predetermined instant occurs, is ascertained;
 - c) the number of events of the frequency signal subsequent to the second instant is sensed;

d) at a third predetermined instant, termination of measurement of the frequency datum is initiated;

e) a fourth instant, at which an event of the frequency signal subsequent to the third predetermined instant occurs, is ascertained;

f) the frequency datum is calculated from the time offset between the second instant and fourth instant, and from the number of events of the frequency signal between said instants.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein for ascertaining the fourth instant, the next event of the frequency signal is selected as the event subsequent to the third predetermined instant.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein for ascertaining the fourth instant, what is selected as the event subsequent to the third predetermined instant is that next event of the frequency signal at which the number of events since the second instant is equal to a product $a * N$, where a and N are whole numbers of which the one is equal to at least 1 and the other is equal to at least 2.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein in the case of a rotation speed frequency signal (f), the number N corresponds to a fixed number of events per revolution of the rotor.

9. The method according to one or more of the foregoing claims 5 through 8, wherein measurements in accordance with claim 5 are performed continuously.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the first predetermined instants of successive measurements have defined time offsets (T_A); and wherein the third predetermined instants each have a substantially constant time offset from the associated first predetermined instants.

11. The method according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the third predetermined instant of a first measurement corresponds to the first predetermined instant of a second measurement subsequent thereto.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the fourth instant of a first measurement corresponds to the second instant of a second measurement subsequent thereto.

13. The method according to one or more of the foregoing claims, wherein for generating a frequency datum, the number (N) of events of the frequency signal between the second and fourth instants is divided by the time offset (Δt) between said two instants.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the rotation speed datum is parameterized by multiplication by a constant factor.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the constant factor is selected so that the rotation speed datum substantially corresponds to a physical rotation speed, e.g. revolutions per minute or revolutions per second.

16. The method according to one of claims 13 through 15, wherein the division using a numerator proportional to the number of pulses between the second and fourth instants and a denominator proportional to the duration between the second and fourth instants yields as result an integral frequency datum and a remainder; and wherein the resulting remainder is taken into account by addition to the numerator of the subsequent measurement.

Example of an integral division: $7 / 3 = 2$, remainder 1. 7 is the numerator, 3 the denominator, and 1 the remainder. The result of this division is 2.

17. A method for obtaining a datum concerning the rotation speed of a rotating object, hereinafter called a rotor, according to one or more of the foregoing claims,

comprising an arrangement for generating a rotation speed signal (f) which comprises, for each rotor revolution, at least one event in the manner of a pulse, a signal edge, or the like, and comprising the following steps:

- a) during a first measurement period (T_{M1}), the number (N) of events of the rotation speed signal (f) is sensed;
- b) the time duration (Δt) of the first measurement period (T_{M1}) is sensed;
- c) by means of an integral division ("div") in which the number of events during the first measurement period (T_{M1}) is in the numerator and the time duration of the first measurement period (T_{M1}) is in the denominator, a first integral rotation speed datum and a remainder are generated as the result (FIG. 15: S372; FIG. 16: S472);
- d) during evaluation of a subsequent measurement, said remainder (REM_n_OLD ; $REM_n_s_OLD$) is taken into account in the integral division then taking place, by addition to the numerator.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the number (N) of events prior to the integral division (S372; S472) is multiplied by a constant factor (2^h ; 2^{h_s}) that is greater than 1, in order to obtain a result of the integral division that is large in relation to the remainder (REM_n ; REM_n_s).

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the constant factor is a power of two (2^h ; 2^{h_s}).

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the exponent (h; h_s) of the power of two is an adjustable variable.

21. An apparatus for carrying out a method according to one of the foregoing claims,

wherein in order to obtain a datum concerning the rotation speed of a rotating object, hereinafter called a rotor (32; 32', 32"), a sensor (61) is provided which furnishes a rotation speed signal (f) that comprises a defined number of events (FIG. 10: 110) for each revolution of the rotor (32; 32'; 32"),

comprising a source (23) for control signals (FIG. 10: 191, 193, 195);

comprising a counter (INT_CNT_f) for events (110) of the rotation speed signal (f);

comprising a program-controlled apparatus (23) for analyzing the aforesaid signals, associated with which is a program that is configured for executing the following steps:

a) measurement of a rotation speed datum is initiated by means of a first control signal (FIG. 10: 191);

b) a first instant (FIG. 10: 197), at which an event (110) of the rotation speed signal (f) subsequent to the first control signal (FIG. 10: 191) occurs, is ascertained;

c) the number of subsequent events (110) of the rotation speed signal (f) is sensed by means of the counter (INT_CNT_f) for events (110) of the rotation speed signal (f);

d) termination of measurement of the rotation speed datum is initiated by means of a second control signal (FIG. 10: 193);

e) a second instant (FIG. 10: 199), at which an event of the rotation speed signal (f) subsequent to the second control signal (FIG. 10: 193) occurs, is ascertained;

f) a rotation speed datum (n) is calculated from the time offset (FIG. 10: $\Delta t_{MEAS_f}(197-199)$) between the first instant (FIG. 10: 197) and second instant (FIG. 10: 199), and from the number (N) of events (110) of the rotation speed signal (f) between said two instants.

22. The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the generator for the control signals comprises a timer (TIMER0).

23. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the timer (TIMER0) is configured so as to trigger interrupt operations (TIMER0 Interrupt) as control signals.

24. The apparatus according to one or more of Claims 21 through 23, wherein a timer (TIMER1) is provided for measurement of the time offset between the first and second instants.

25. The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the timer (TIMER1) for measurement of the time offset between the first and second instants is configured as a ring counter.

26. The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the ring counter (TIMER1) counts continuously, and the end of a completed measurement is substantially identical to the beginning of a new measurement.

27. The apparatus according to one or more of claims 21 through 26, wherein a signal of an electronically commutated motor serves as the rotation speed signal.

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28. The apparatus according to one or more of claims 21 through 27, wherein the counter (INT_CNT_f) for events (110) of the rotation speed signal (f) is provided in the program-controlled apparatus (23).

29. A motor in which the rotation speed can be regulated to zero by means of a setpoint signal in the form of a frequency (f_s), by the giving a frequency value of zero to said setpoint signal.

30. A method for controlling the rotation speed of a motor which has a rotor and with which a rotation speed controller is associated, in order to control the rotation speed of said rotor,

comprising a rotation speed frequency signal (f) having a frequency proportional to the rotation speed of the rotor;

comprising a setpoint frequency signal (f_s);

the rotation speed of the rotor being controlled in such a way that the frequency of the rotation speed frequency signal (f) and the frequency of the setpoint frequency signal (f_s) are at a defined ratio (y/z) to one another.

31. The method according to claim 30, wherein the ratio between the frequencies (f) and (f_s) is influenced by at least one parameter.

32. The method according to claim 31, wherein the ratio between the frequencies (f) and (f_s) is defined in the controller by means of at least one parameter (X; Y).

33. The method according to claim 32, wherein the at least one parameter is stored in a nonvolatile memory.

34. A method for ascertaining frequency in the context of a plurality of signals (f and f_s), said signals comprising frequency data in the manner of pulses, edges, or the like, comprising the following steps:

a) for at least two of said signals, measurement of their frequency is initiated at a first predetermined instant;

b) for each of said signals, a second instant, at which a frequency datum of said signal subsequent to the first predetermined instant occurs, is ascertained;

c) the number of frequency data of each of said signals subsequent to the second instant is sensed separately;

d) at a third predetermined instant, termination of measurement of the frequency is initiated for said signals;

e) for each of said signals, a fourth instant, at which a frequency datum of said signal subsequent to the third predetermined instant occurs, is ascertained;

f) from the time offset between the second instant and fourth

instant, and from the number of frequency data of the relevant signal between said instants, a magnitude characterizing its frequency is determined for each of the signals measured.

35. The method according to claim 34, wherein for ascertaining the fourth instant, the next frequency datum of the relevant signal is selected as the frequency datum subsequent to the third predetermined instant.

36. The method according to claim 34, wherein for ascertaining the fourth instant, what is selected as the frequency datum subsequent to the third predetermined instant is that next frequency datum of the relevant signal at which the number of frequency data since the second instant corresponds to an integral multiple of a whole number from the series 2, 3, 4, ...

37. The method according to one of claims 34 through 36, wherein measurements are performed continuously and the third predetermined instants each have a substantially constant time offset (T_A) from the associated first predetermined instants.

38. The method according to claim 37, wherein the third predetermined instant of the measurement corresponds to a signal of the first predetermined instant of a subsequent measurement.

39. The method according to claim 37 or 38, wherein the fourth instant of a measurement corresponds to the second instant of a subsequent measurement of the same signal.

40. The method according to one of claims 34 through 39, wherein the first predetermined instants for initiating measurement of the plurality of signals are substantially identical.

41. The method according to claims 34 through 40, wherein the third predetermined instants for initiating termination of the measurement of the plurality of signals are substantially identical.

ABSTRACT

The invention concerns a method for regulating the rotation speed, of a motor with which a digital rotation speed controller is associated and which, during operation, furnishes an actual-value signal for the rotation speed in the form of a rotation speed frequency signal, toward a target rotation speed setpoint defined in the form of a setpoint frequency signal, having the following steps: in a first time segment, a first numerical frequency value that characterizes the rotation speed of the motor is ascertained from the rotation speed frequency signal; in a second time segment that is substantially simultaneous with the first time segment, a second numerical frequency value that characterizes the frequency of the setpoint frequency signal is ascertained from the setpoint frequency signal; by means of the first and second numerical frequency values, the rotation speed of the motor is regulated in the digital rotation speed controller to a rotation speed that is associated with the setpoint frequency signal according to a predetermined mathematical relationship.

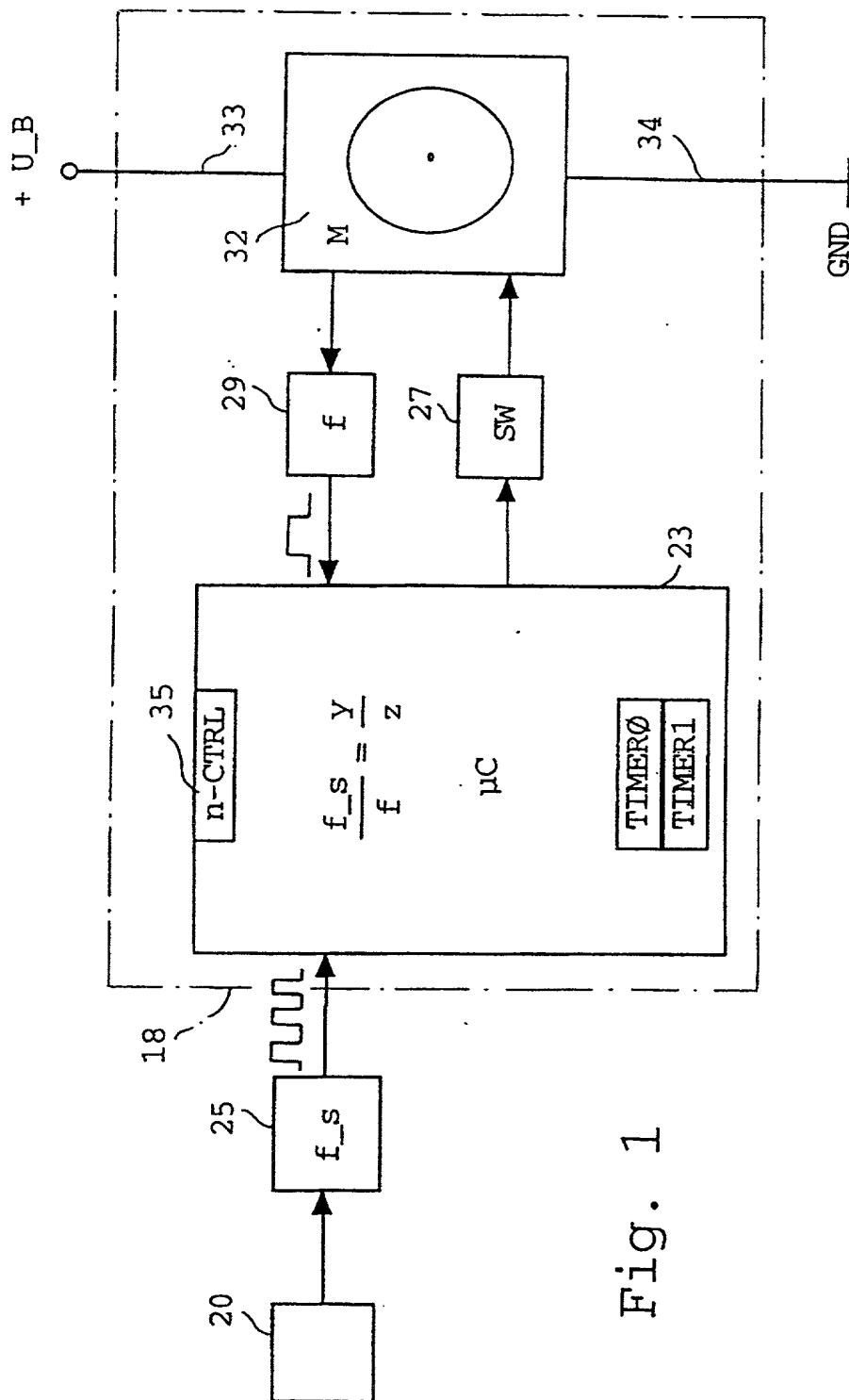


Fig. 1

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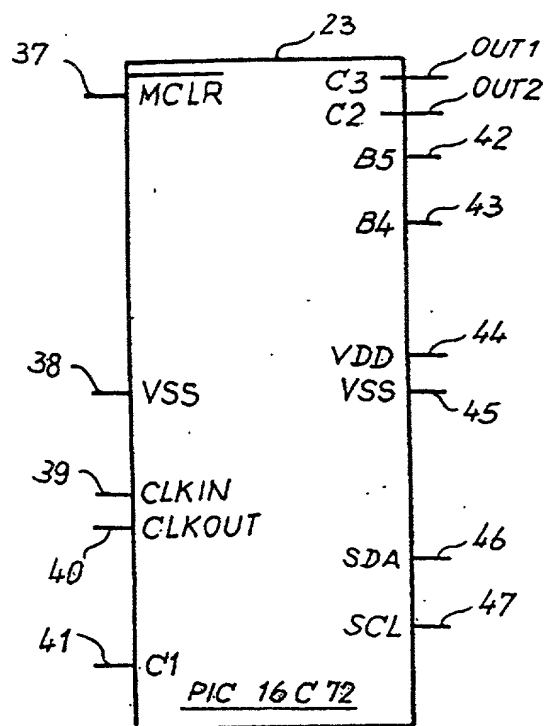


Fig. 2

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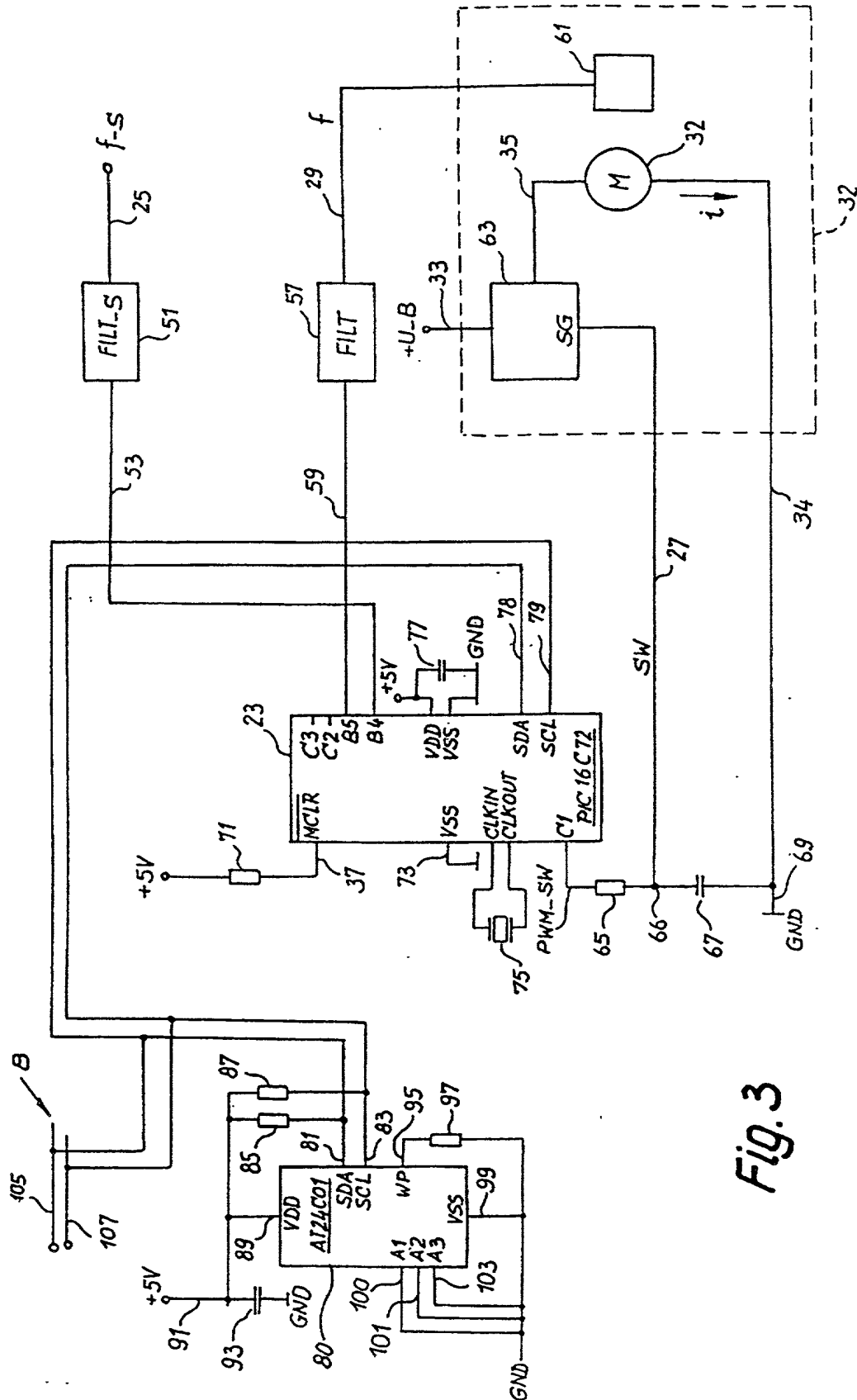
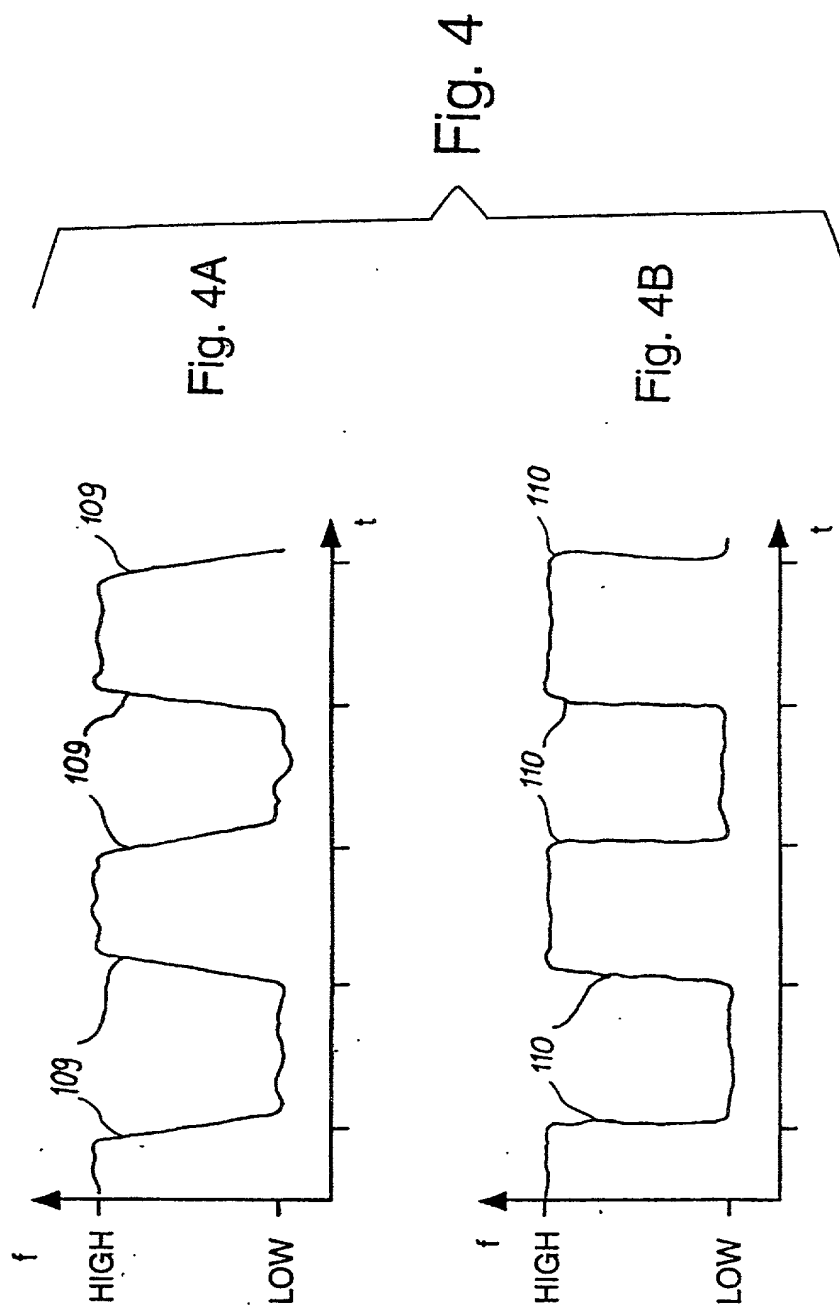


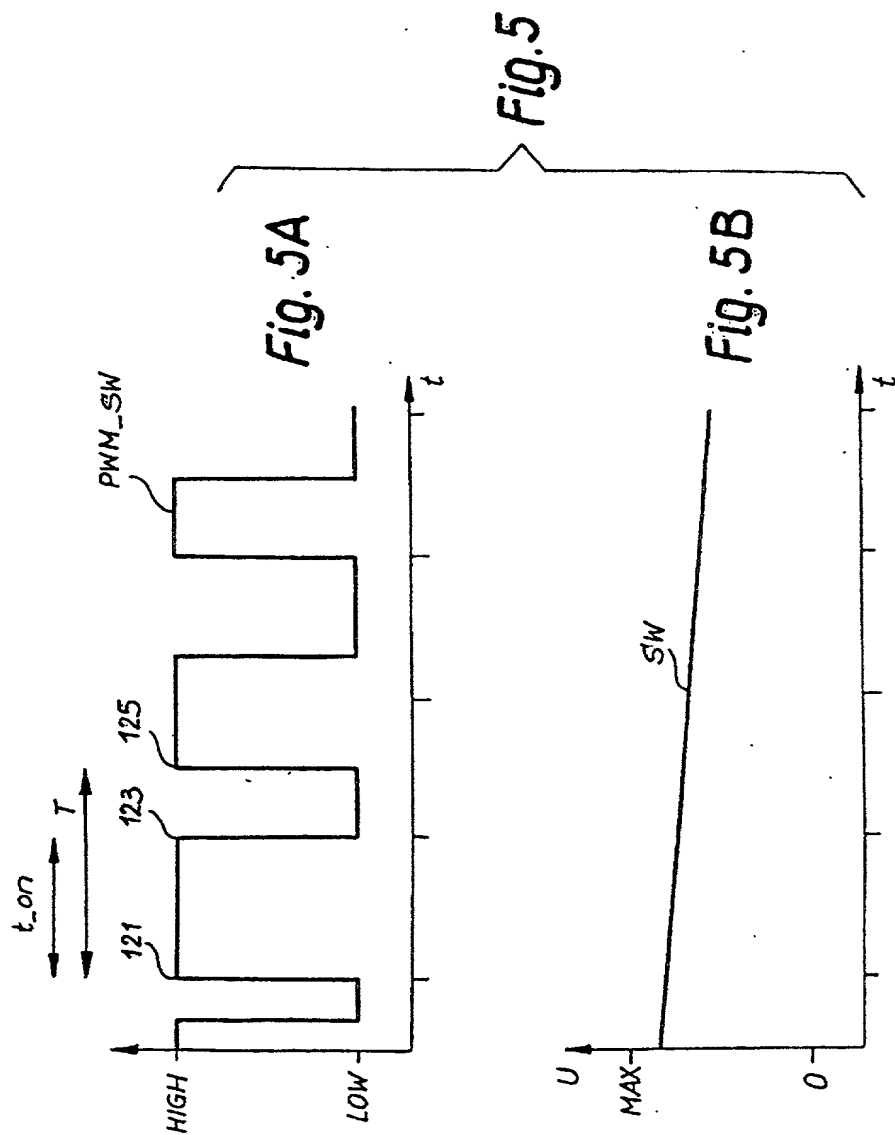
Fig. 3

FIG. 3 - CHART 1001

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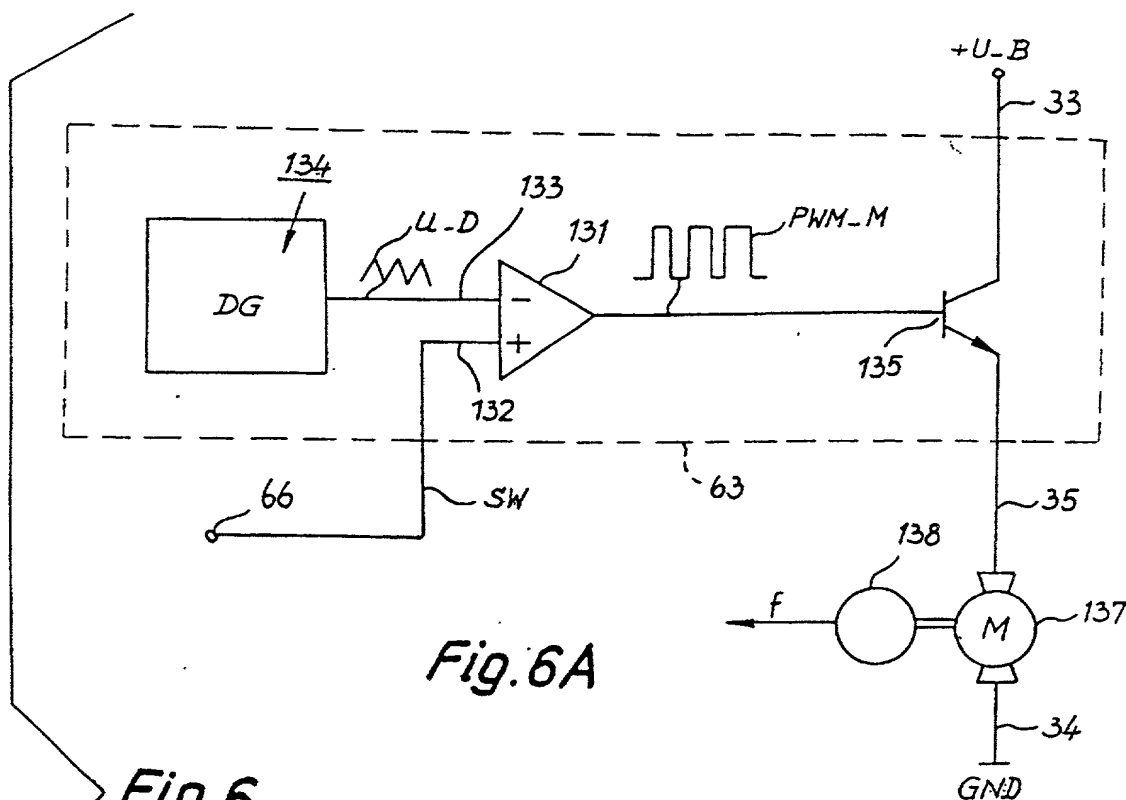


Fig. 6A

Fig. 6

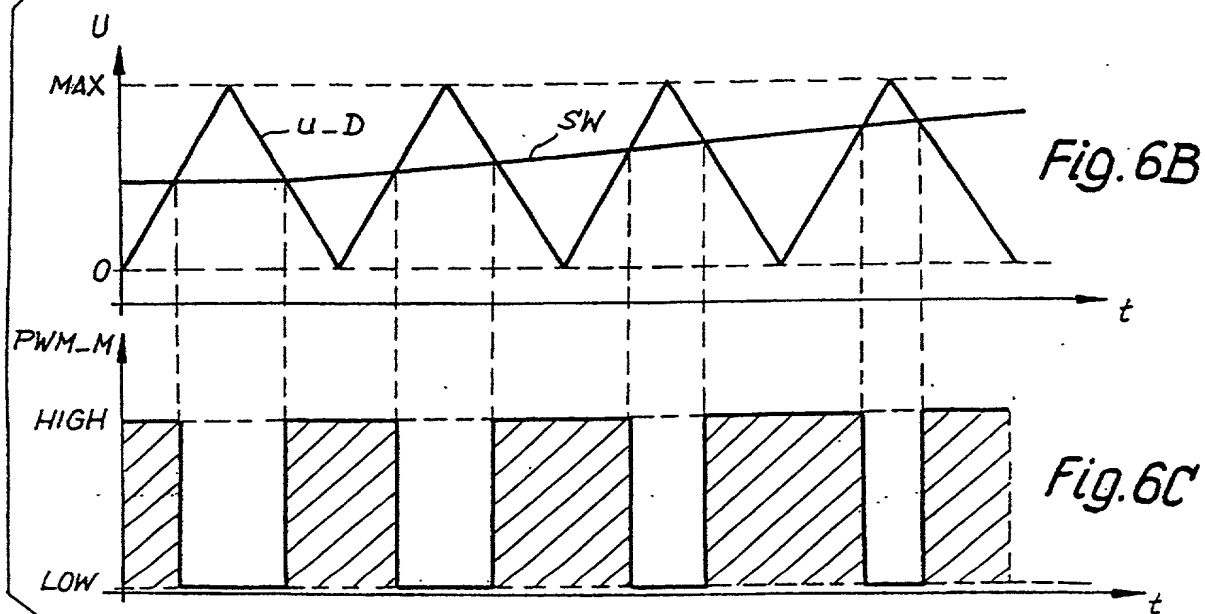


Fig. 6B

Fig. 6C

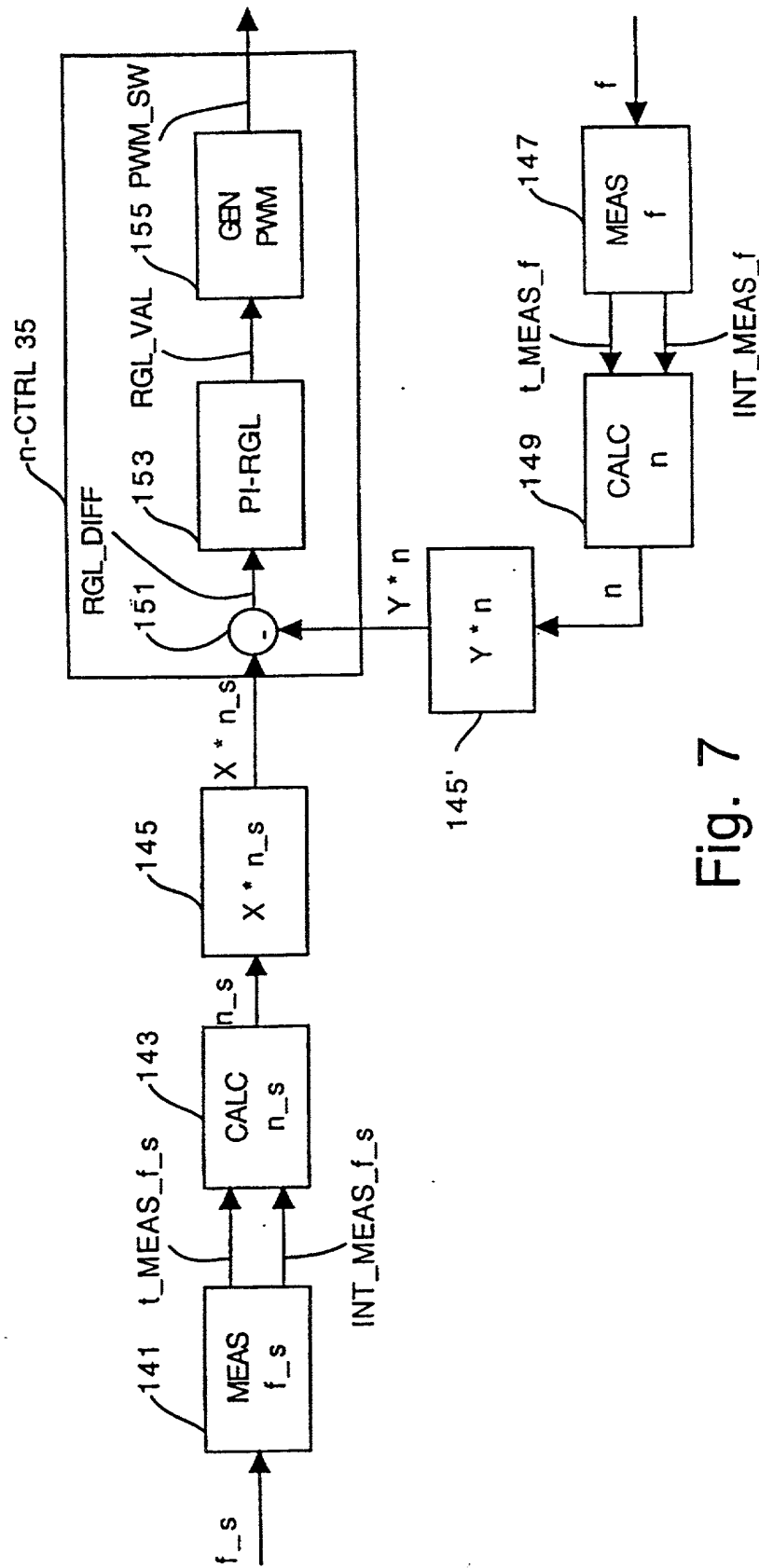


Fig. 7

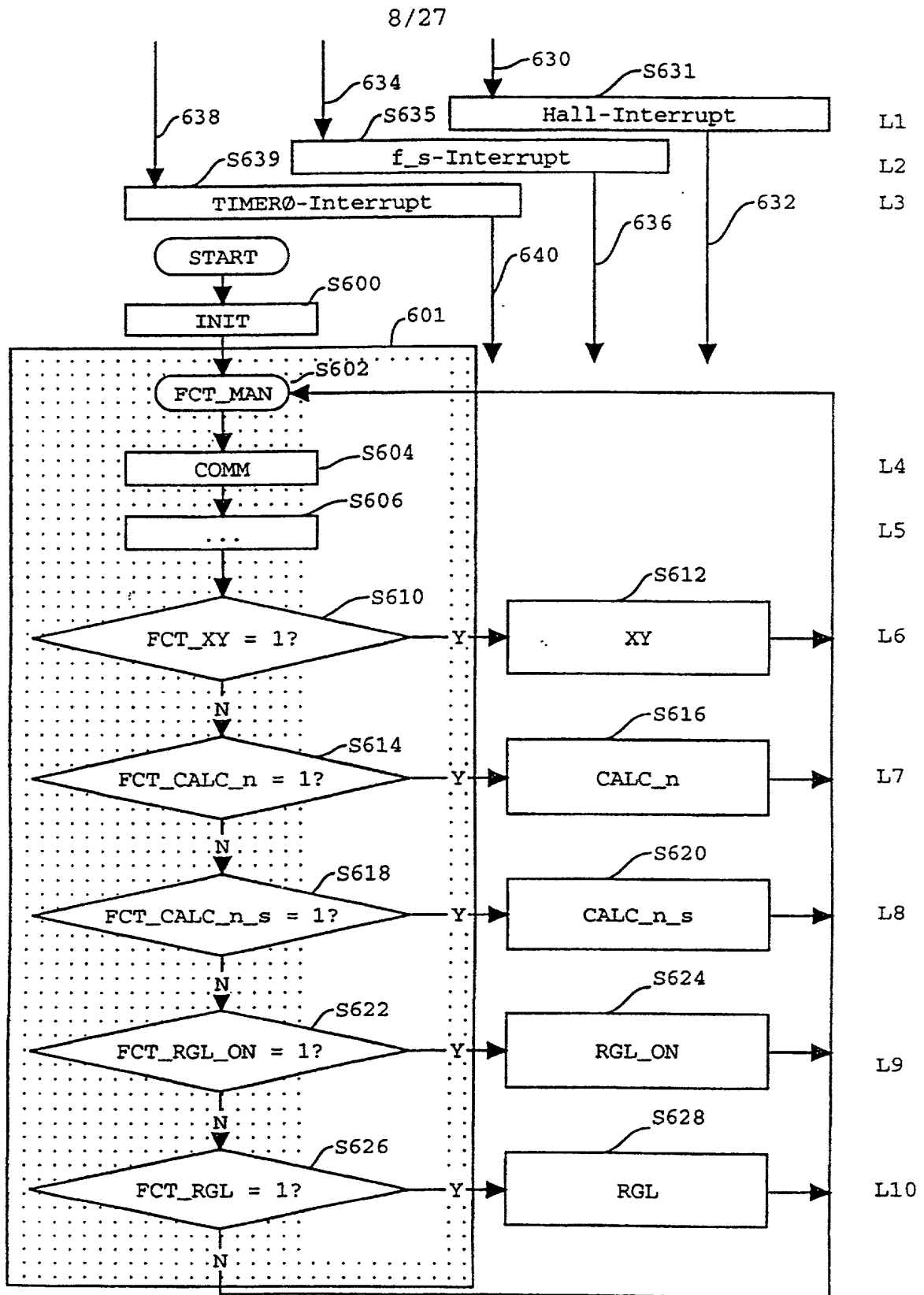


Fig. 8

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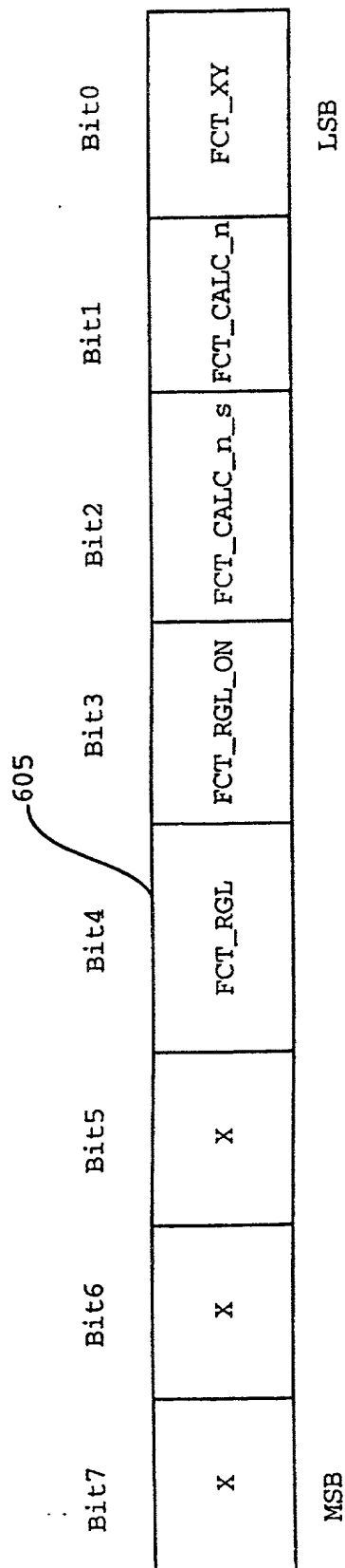


Fig. 9

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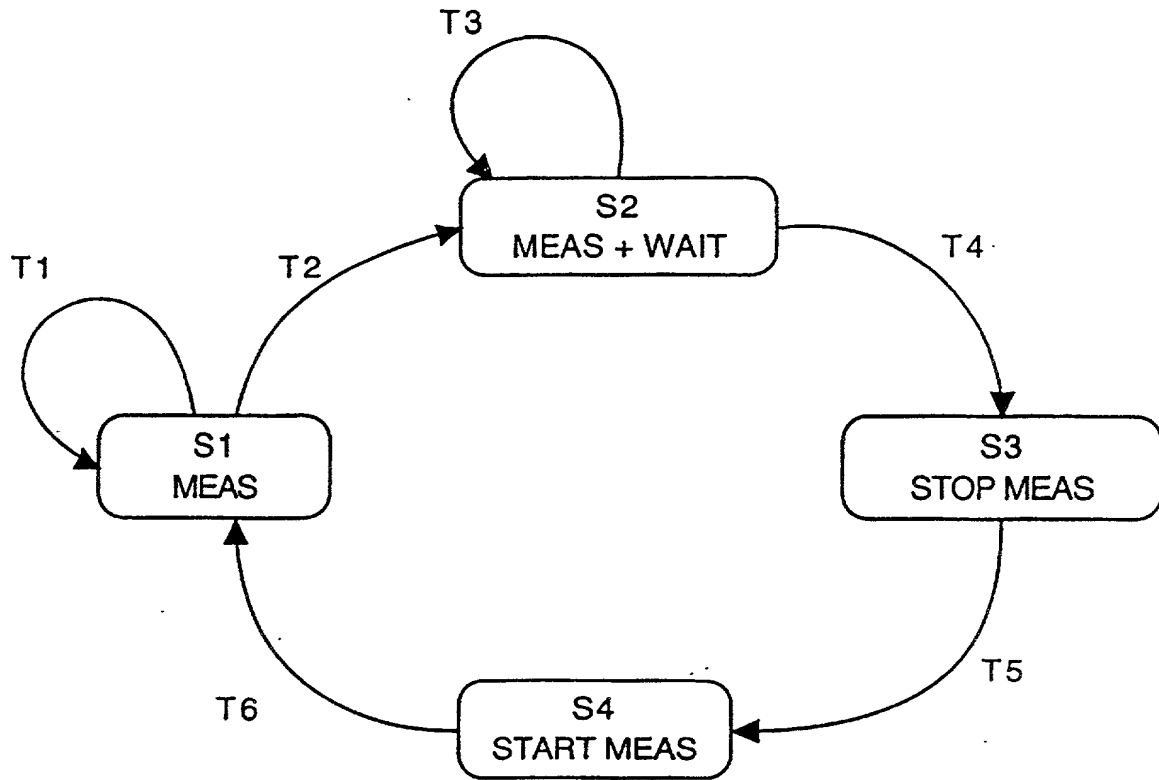


Fig. 10

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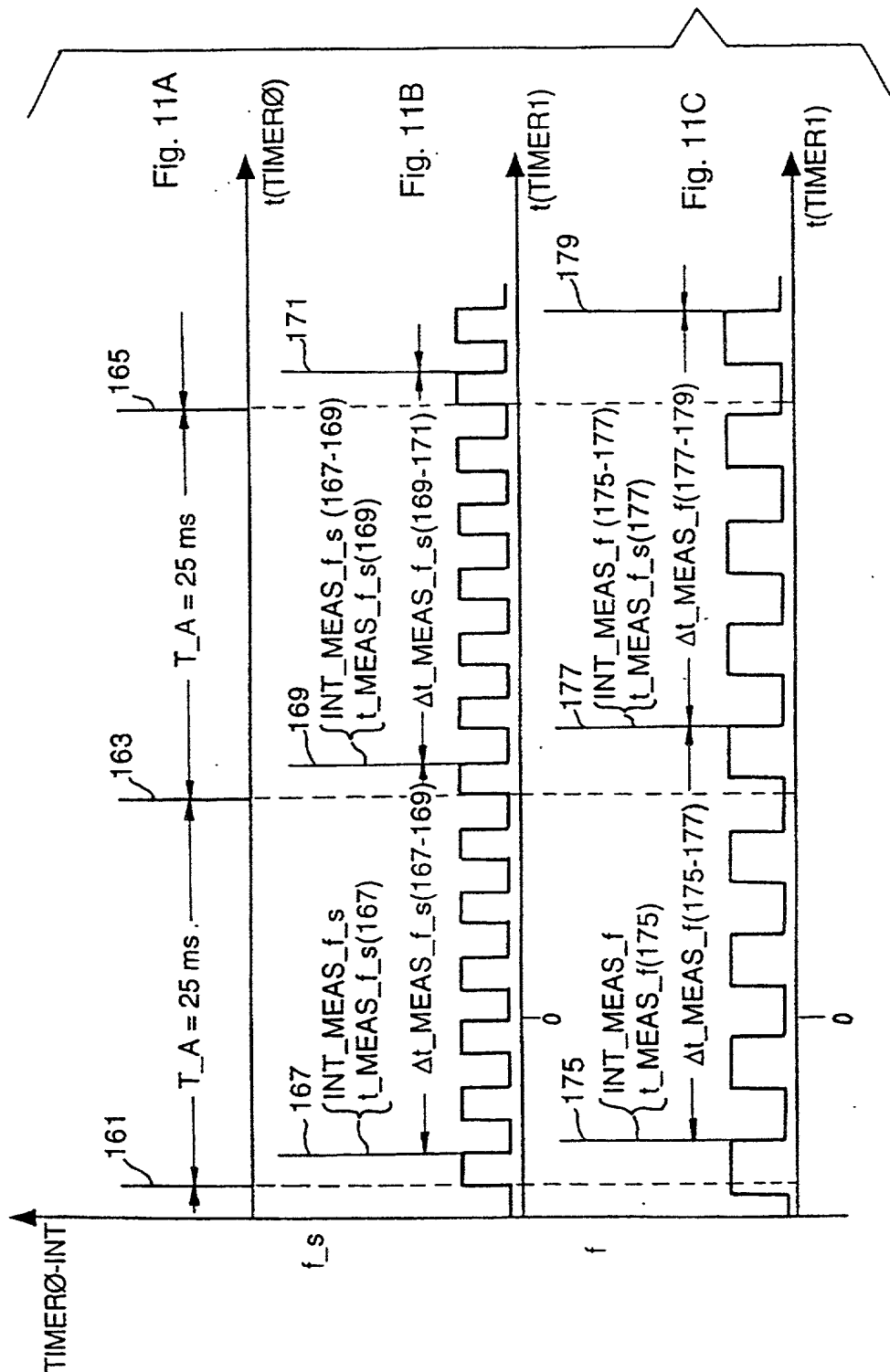


Fig. 11

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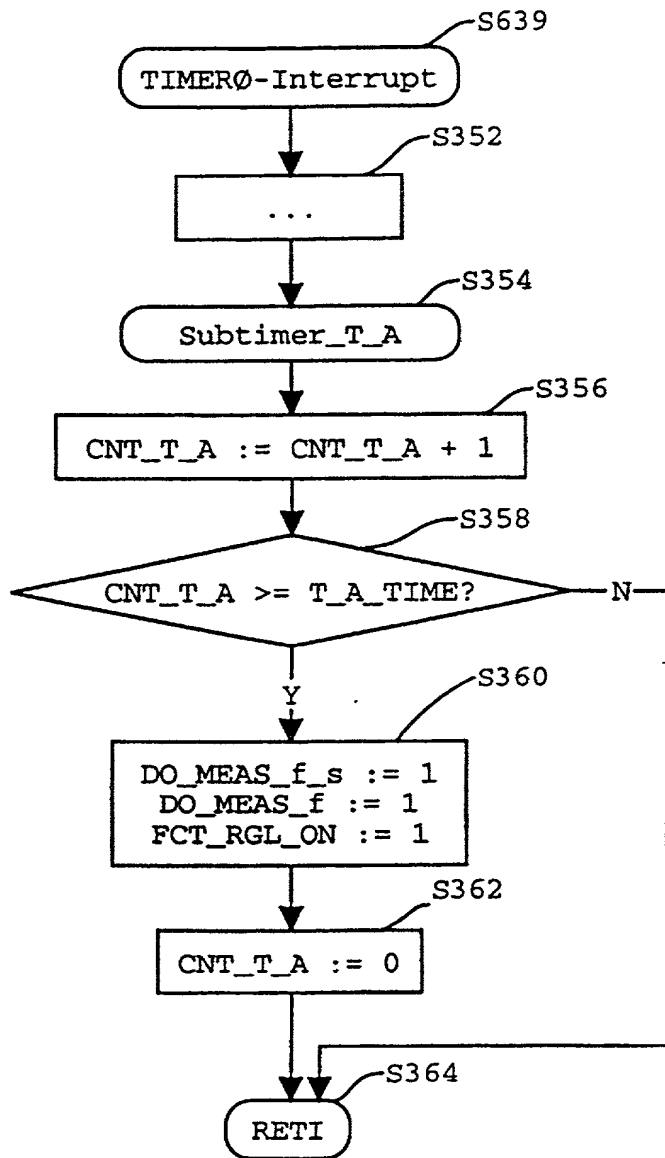


Fig. 12

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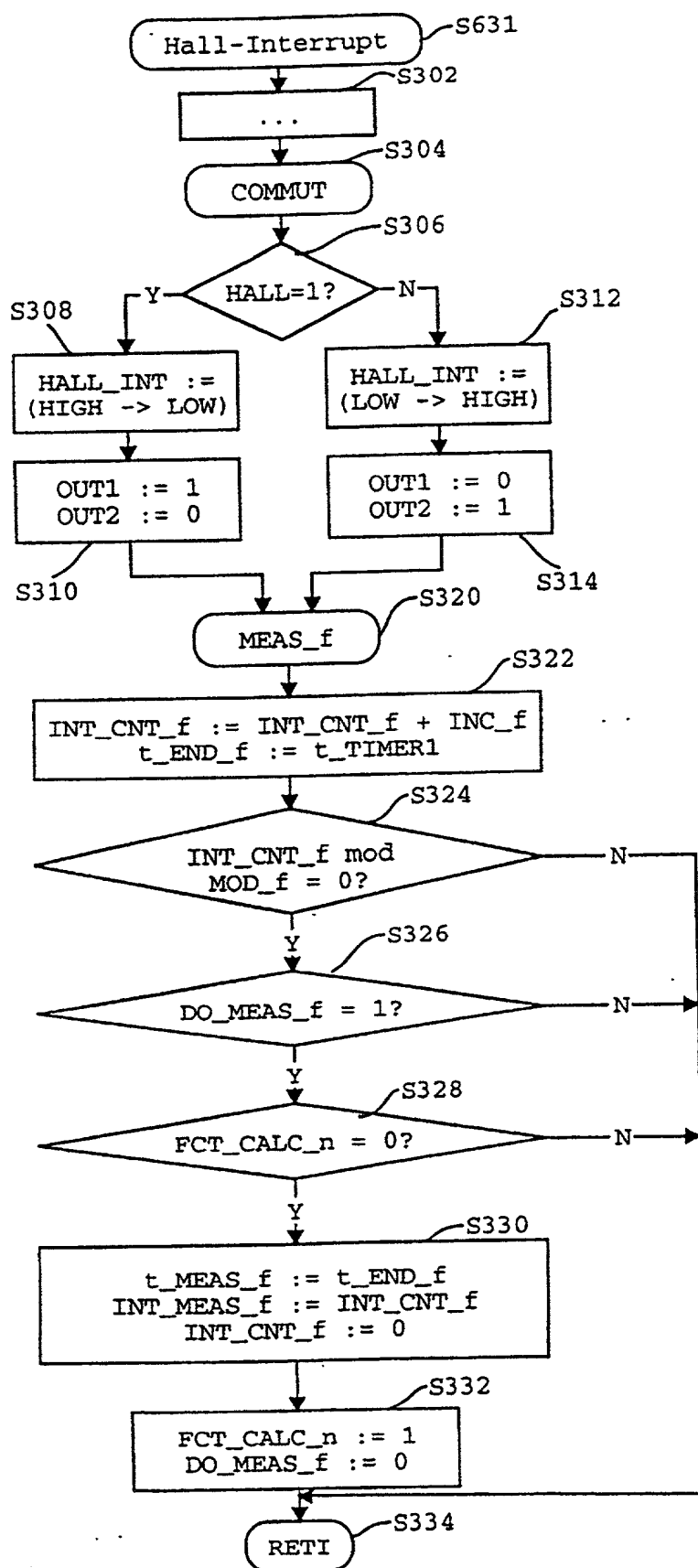


Fig. 13

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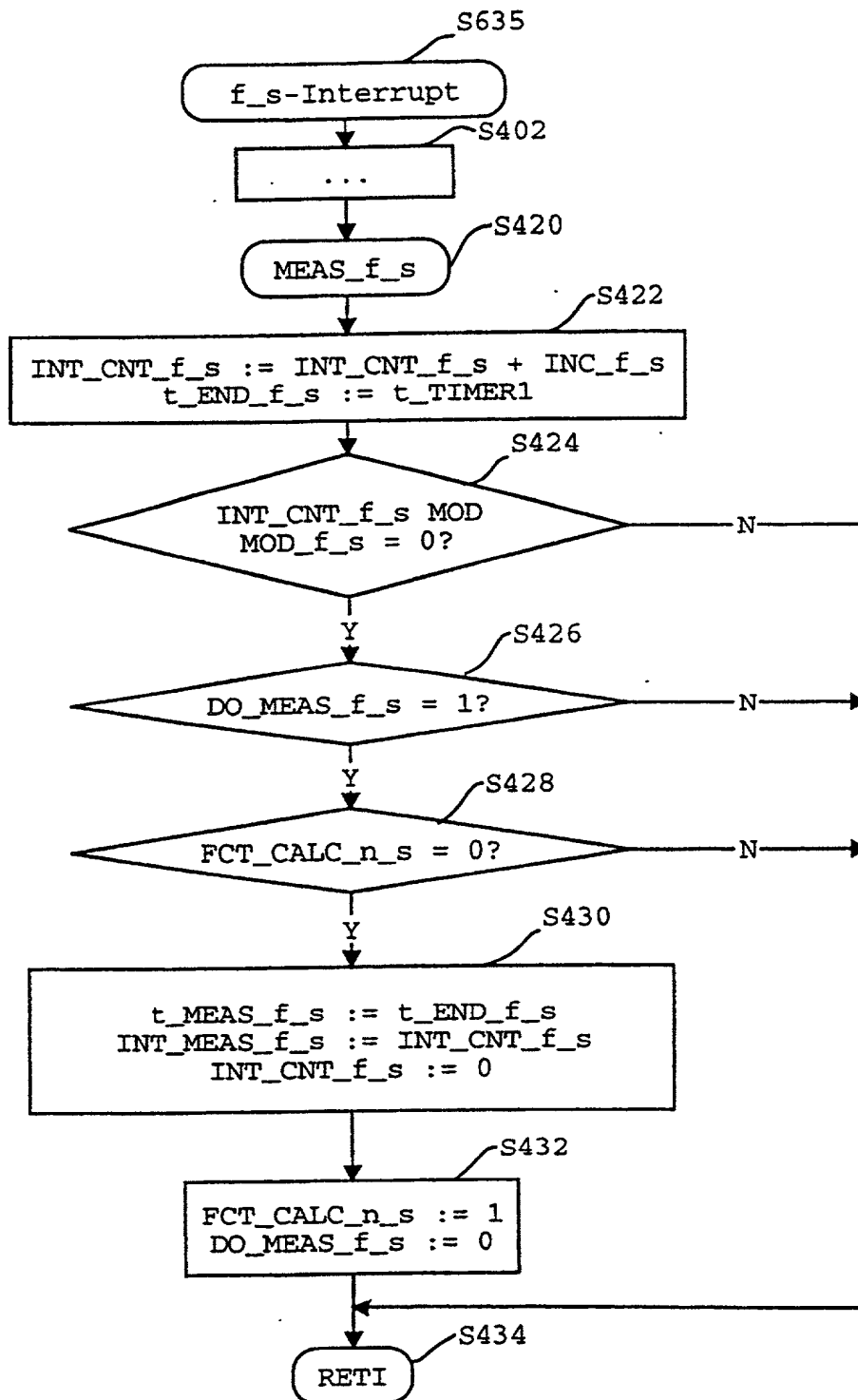


Fig. 14

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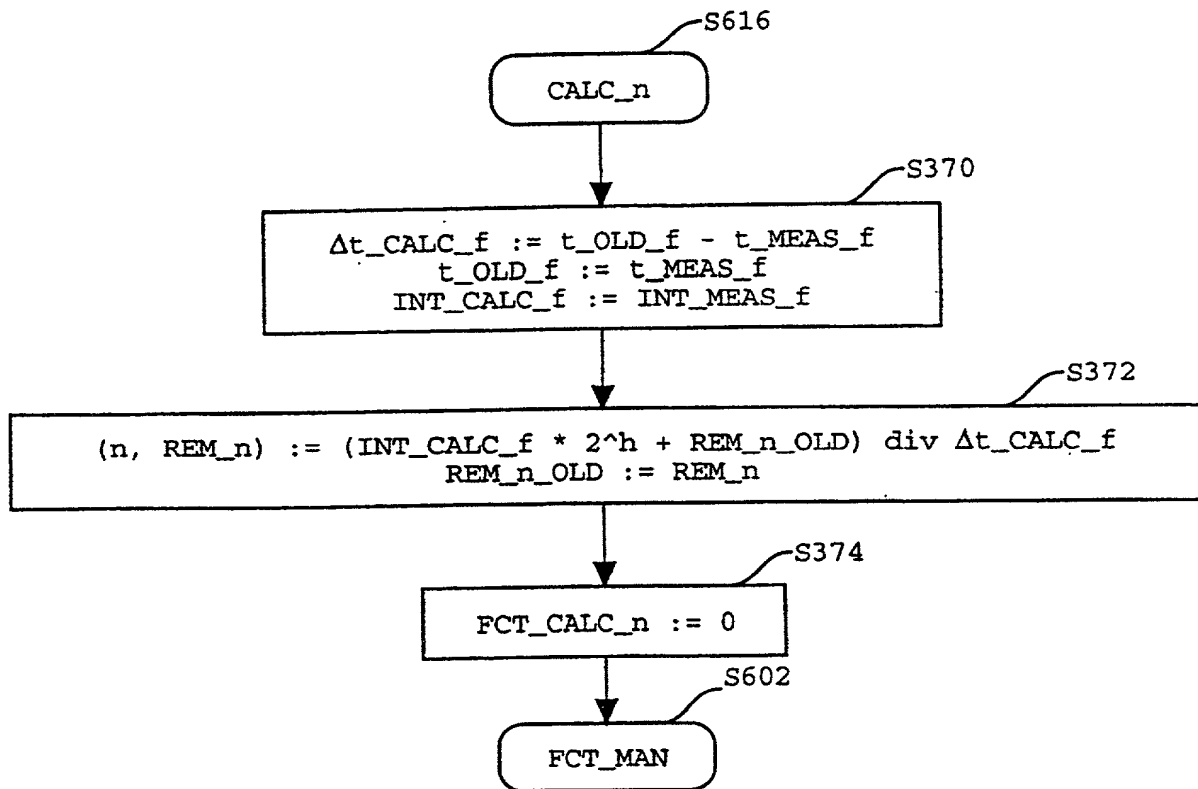


Fig. 15

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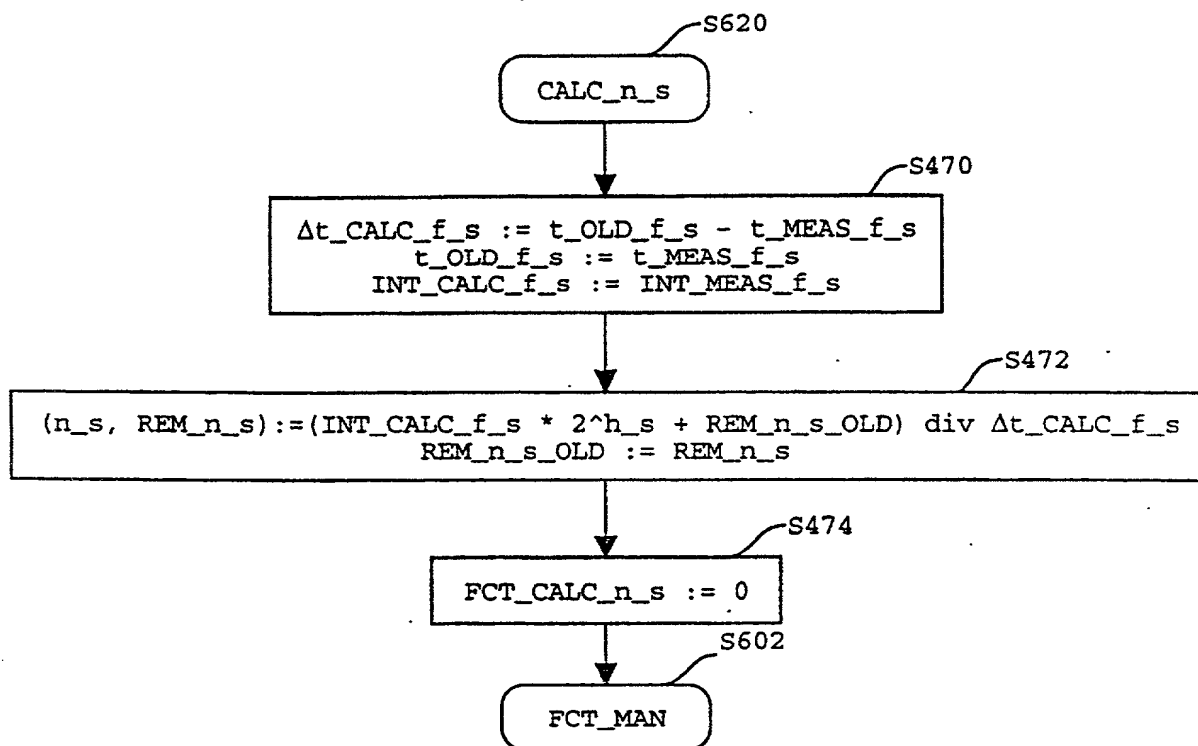


Fig. 16

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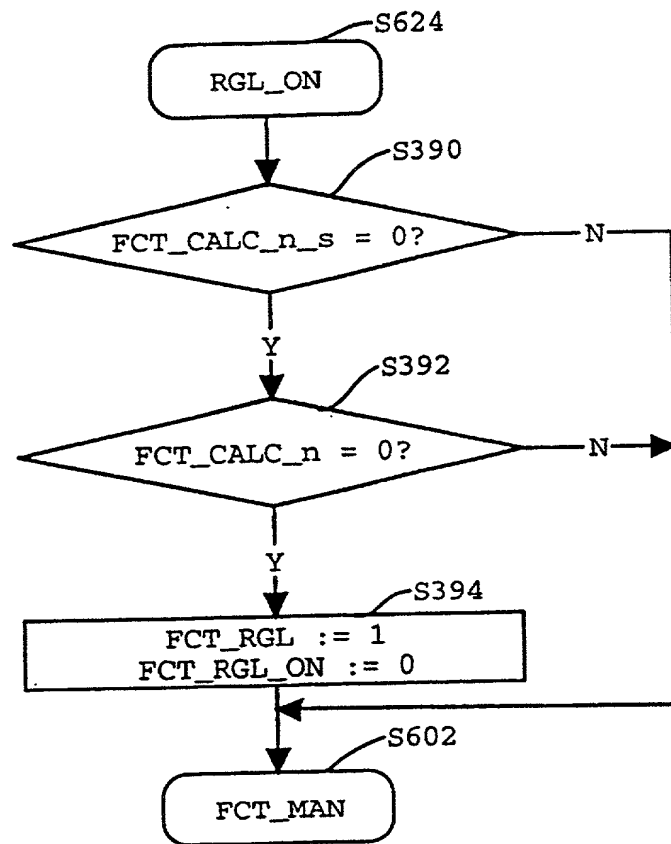


Fig. 17

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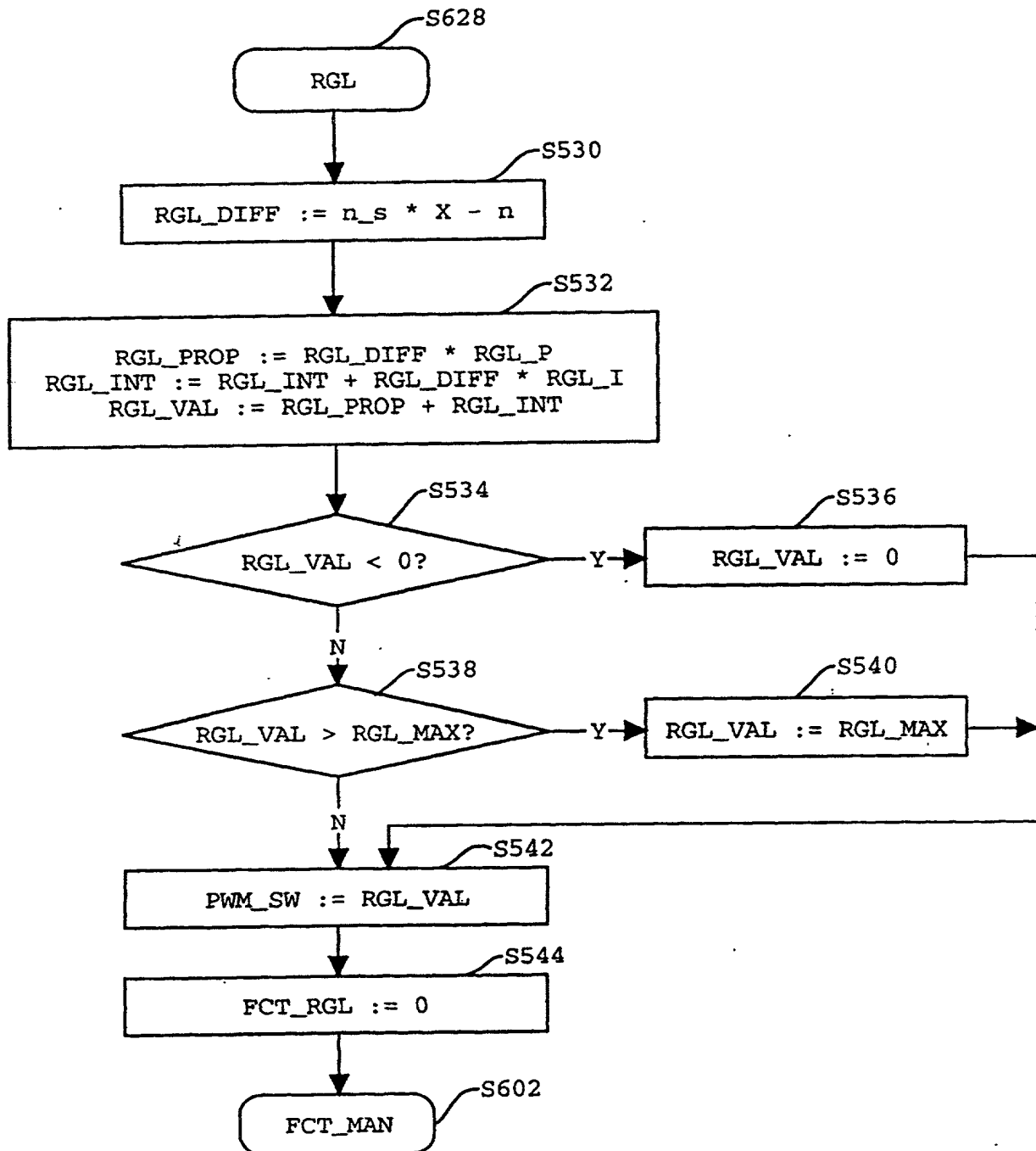


Fig. 18

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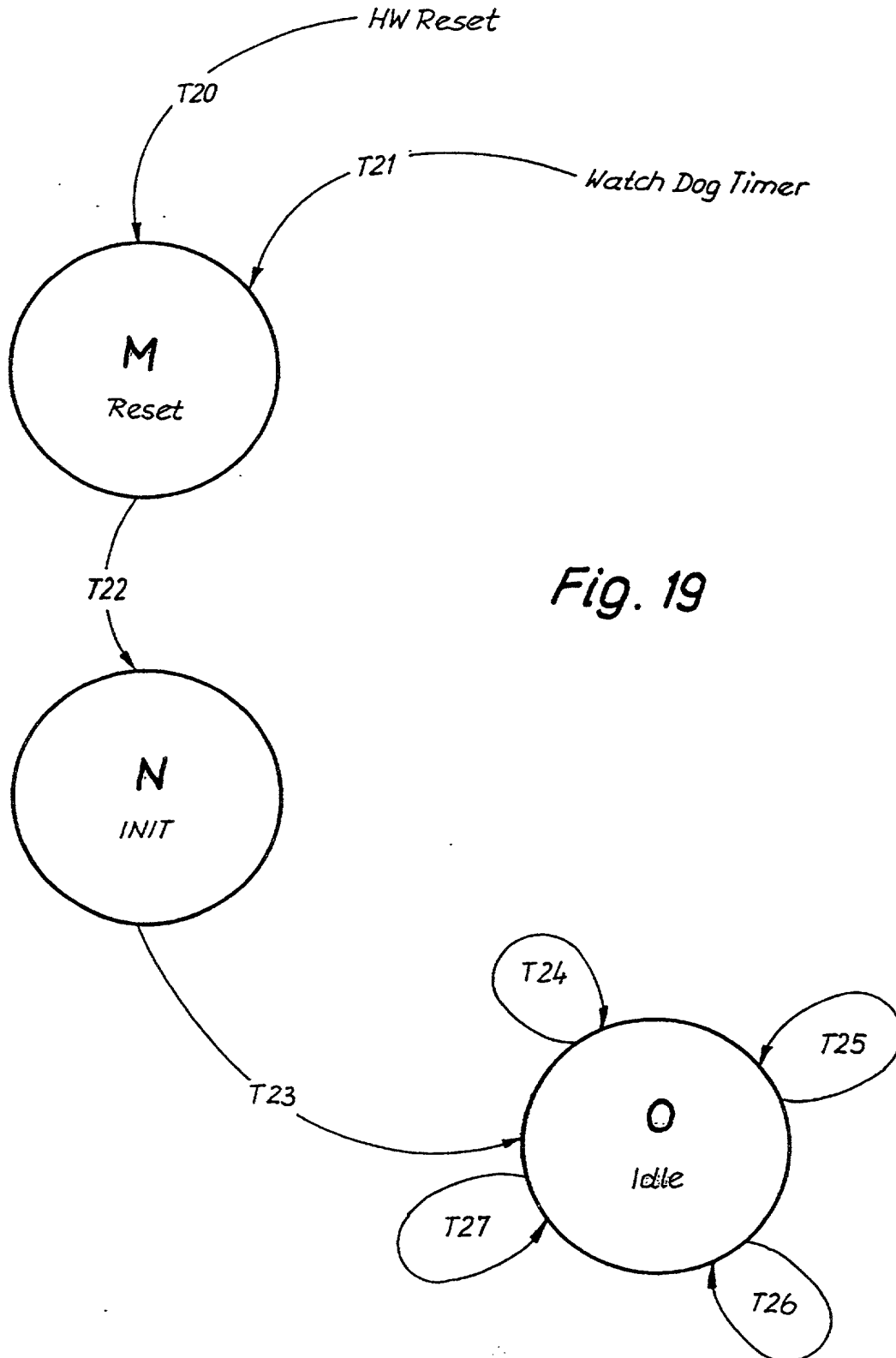


Fig. 19

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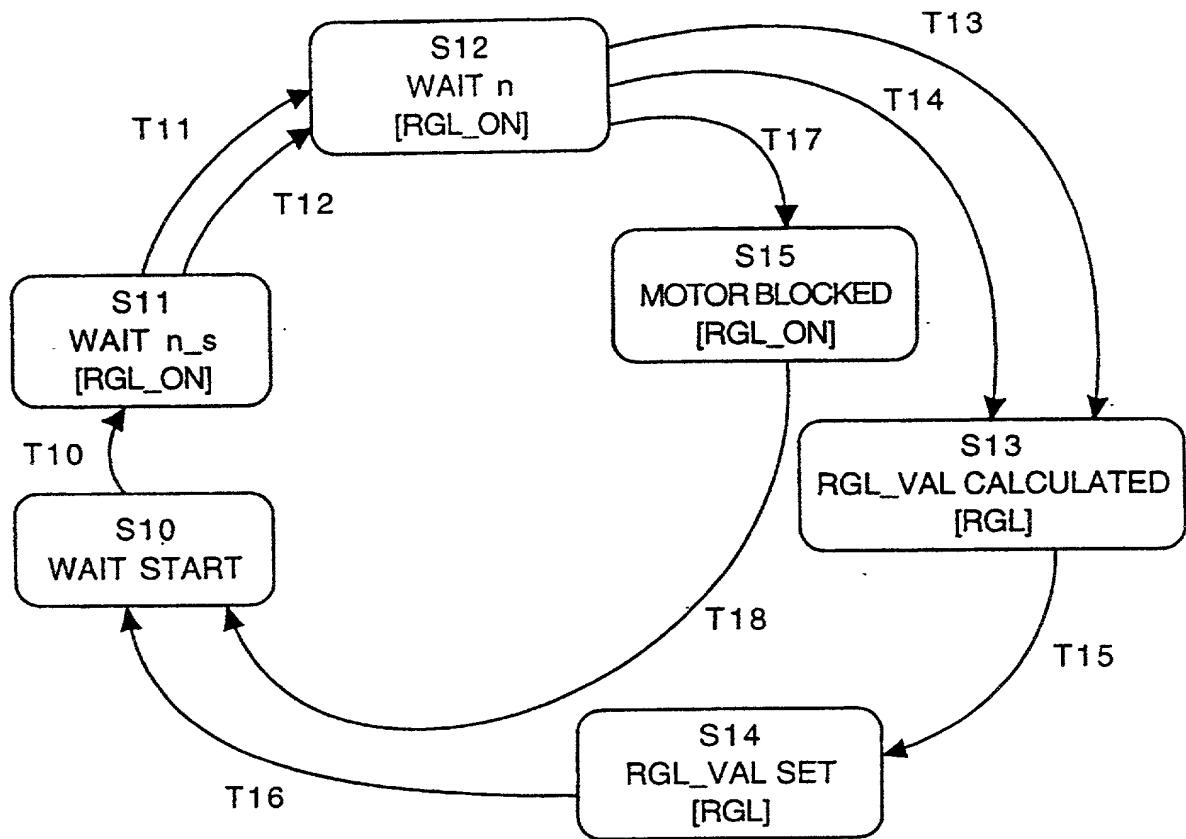


Fig. 20

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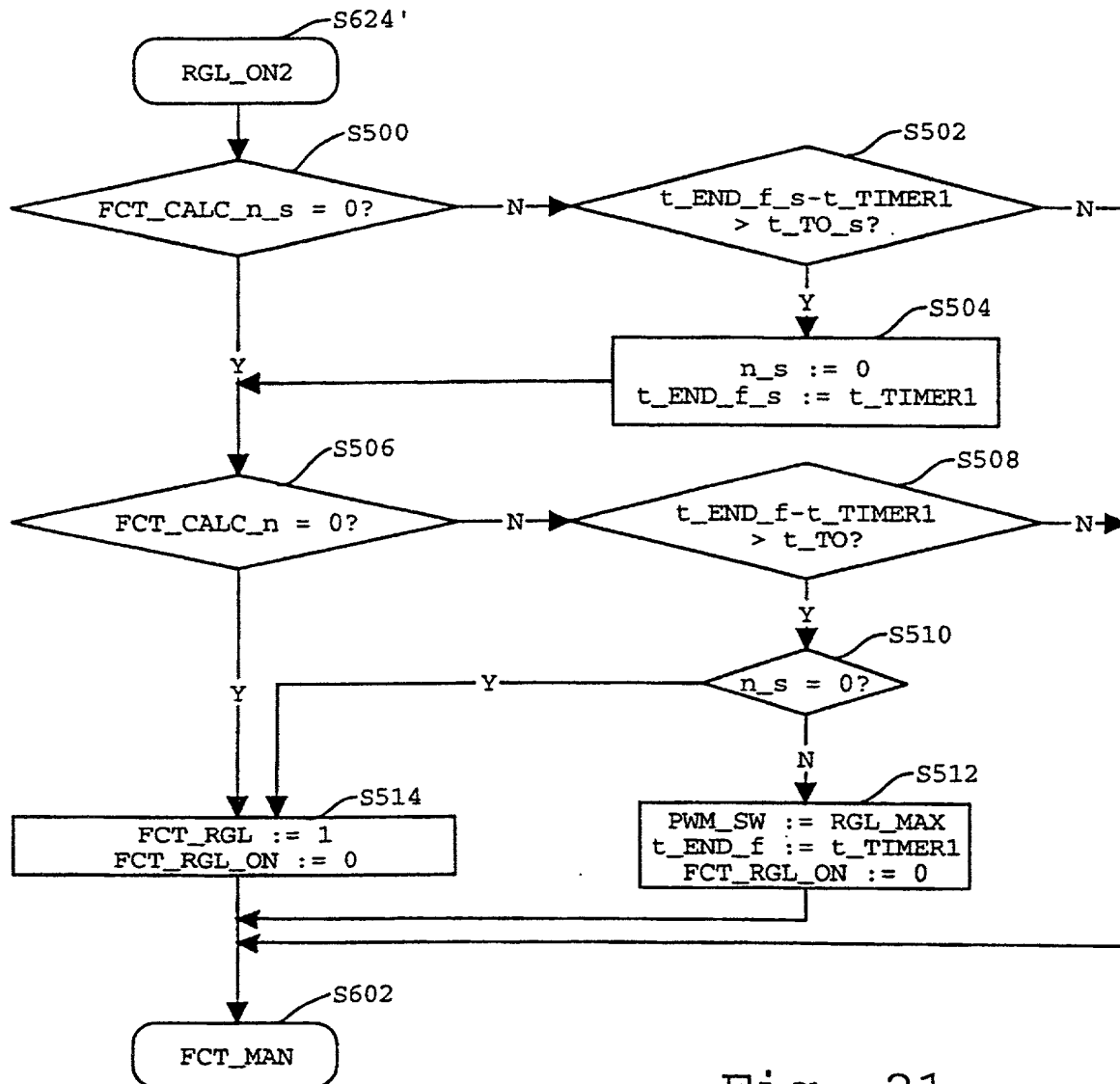


Fig. 21

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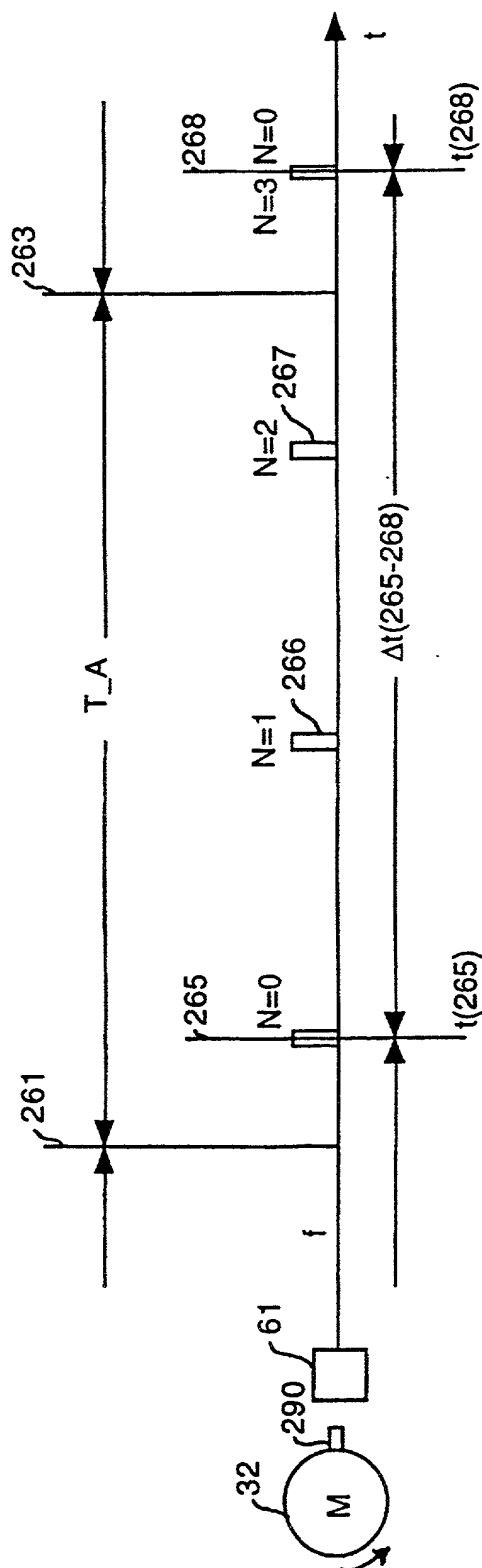


Fig. 22

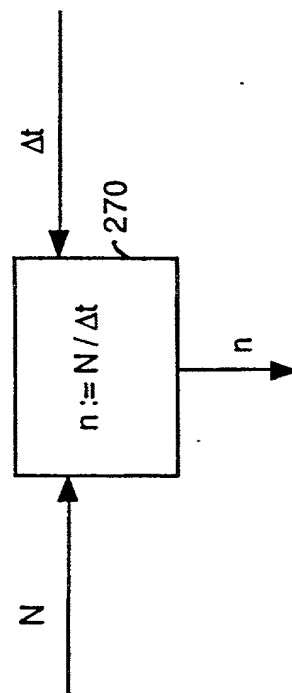


Fig. 23

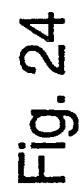


Fig. 24

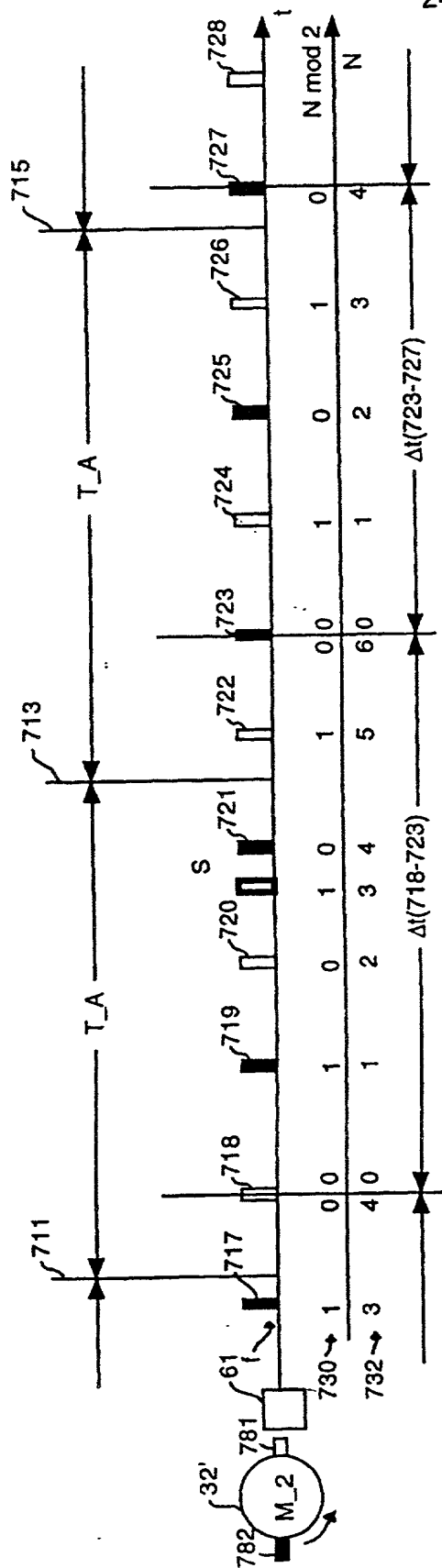


Fig. 25

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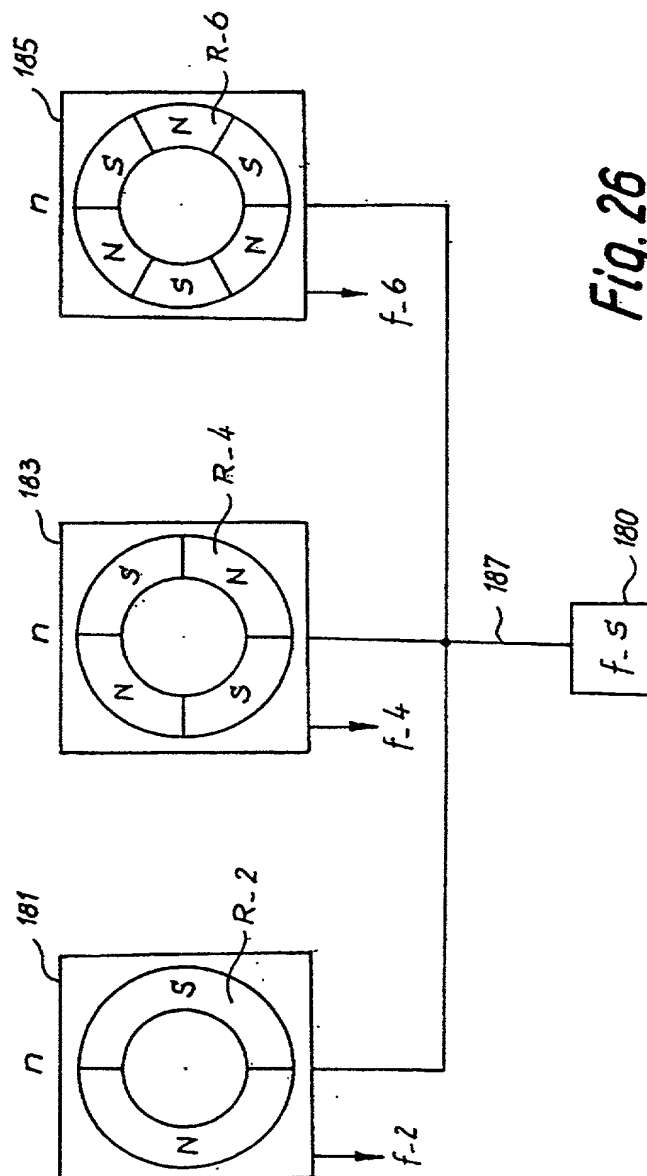


Fig. 26

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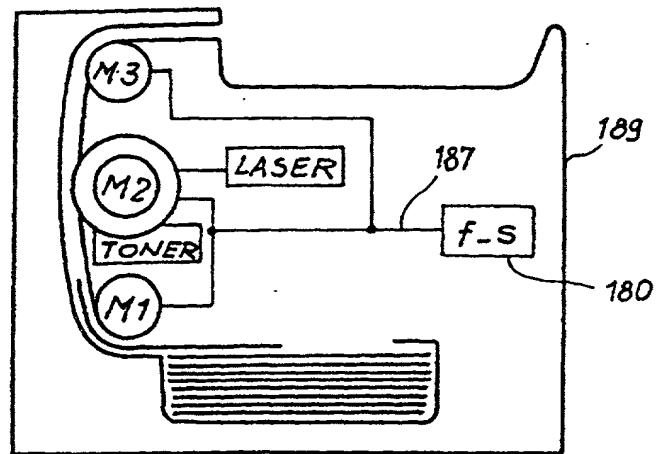


Fig. 27

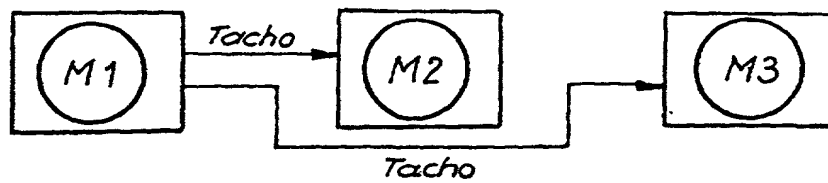
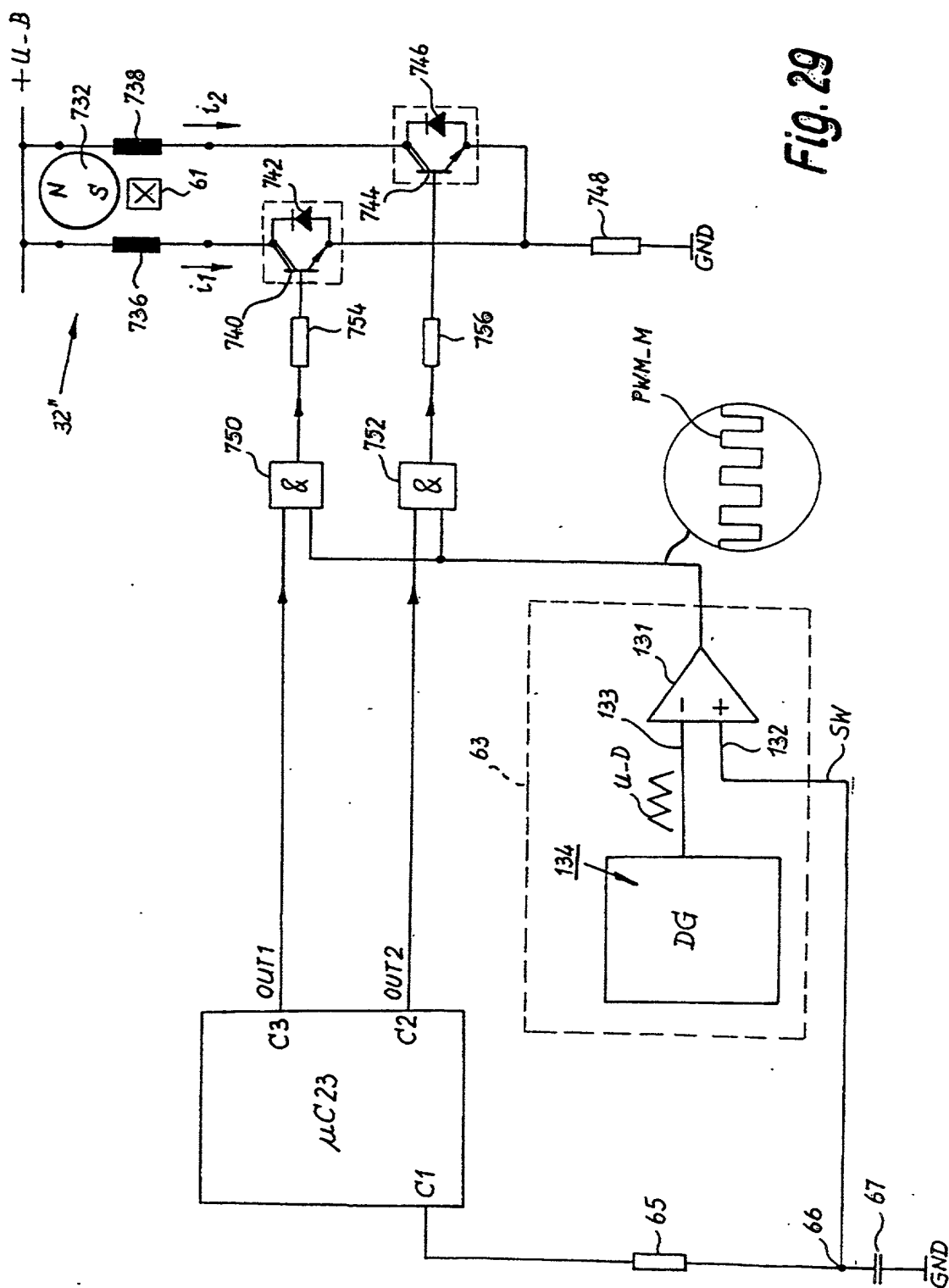


Fig. 28



DECLARATION & POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION
ERKLÄRUNG FÜR PATENTANMELDUNG, MIT VOLLMACHT

GERMAN-LANGUAGE DECLARATION

Als nachstehend benannter Erfinder, erkläre ich hiermit an Eides Statt:

dass mein Wohnsitz, meine Postanschrift, und meine Staatsangehörigkeit den im Nachstehenden nach meinen Namen aufgeführten Angaben entsprechen;

dass ich, nach bestem Wissen der ursprüngliche, erste und alleinige Erfinder (falls nachstehend nur ein Name angegeben ist) oder ein ursprünglicher, erster und Miterfinder (falls nachstehend mehrere Namen aufgeführt sind) des Gegenstandes bin, für den dieser Antrag gestellt wird und für den ein Patent beantragt wird für die Erfindung mit dem Titel.

VERFAHREN ZUR DREHZAHLEGEUNG
EINES MOTORS, UND MOTOR ZUR
DURCHFÜHRUNG EINES SOLCHEN
VERFAHRENS

deren Beschreibung
(zutreffendes ankreuzen)

☐ hier beigelegt ist.

☒ am 5 AUG. 2000 unter der
intern. Anwendungsnummer PCT/EP00/07622
(US Anwaltaktennummer 870-003-139)
eingereicht wurde und am _____
abgeändert wurde (falls tatsächlich abgeändert).

Ich bestätige hiermit, dass ich den Inhalt der obigen Patentanmeldung, einschliesslich der Ansprüche, durchgesehen und verstanden habe, die eventuell durch einen Zusatzantrag wie oben erwähnt abgeändert wurde.

Ich erkenne meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung irgendwelcher Informationen, die für die Prüfung der vorliegenden Anmeldung, in Einklang mit Absatz 37, Bundesvorschriften, § 1.56(a) von Wichtigkeit sind, an.

Ich beanspruche hiermit ausländische Prioritätsvorteile, gemäss Abschnitt 35 der Bundesgesetze der Vereinigten Staaten, § 119, aller unten angegebenen Auslandsanmeldungen für ein Patent oder eine Erfinderurkunde, und habe auch alle Auslandsanmeldungen für ein Patent oder eine Erfinderurkunde nachstehend gekennzeichnet, die ein Anmeldungsdatum haben, dass vor dem Anmeldedatum der Anmeldung liegt, für die Priorität beansprucht wird.

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that.

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject-matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

METHOD FOR REGULATING THE
ROTATIONAL SPEED OF A MOTOR AND A
MOTOR FOR CARRYING OUT A METHOD
OF THIS TYPE

the specification of which
(check one)

☐ is attached hereto

☒ was filed on 5 AUG. 2000
as International Application # PCT/EP00/07622
(U.S. Att. docket 870-003-139)
and was amended on _____
(if in fact amended).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119, of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below, and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed

FOOT SHEET

DECLARATION & POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION
ERKLÄRUNG FÜR PATENTANMELDUNG, MIT VOLLMACHT

GERMAN-LANGUAGE DECLARATION

<p>Priorität beansprucht</p> <p><u>199 45 313.6</u> <u>GERMANY</u> Nummer/Number Land/Country</p> <p><u>199 49 693.5</u> <u>GERMANY</u> Nummer/Number Land/Country</p> <p>_____ Nummer/Number Land/Country</p>	<p>Prior foreign applications Priority claimed?</p> <p><u>22 SEP. 1999</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Day/Month/Year Filed Ja/Yes Nein/No Tag/Monat/Jahr eingereicht</p> <p><u>15. OCT. 1999</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Day/Month/Year Filed Ja/Yes Nein/No Tag/Monat/Jahr eingereicht</p> <p>_____ Day/Month/Year Filed <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Tag/Monat/Jahr eingereicht Ja/Yes Nein/No</p>
<p>Ich beanspruche hiermit, gemäss Absatz 35 der Bundesgesetze der Vereinigten Staaten, § 120, den Vorzug aller unten angeführten Anmeldung und falls der Gegenstand aus jedem Anspruch dieser Anmeldung nicht in einer früheren amerikanischen Patentanmeldung laut dem ersten Paragraph des Absatzes 35 der Bundesgesetze der Vereinigten Staaten, § 112, offenbart ist, erkenne ich gemäss Absatz 37, Bundesvorschriften, § 1.56(a), meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung von Informationen an, die zwischen dem Anmeldedatum der früheren Anmeldung und dem nationalen oder PCT internationalen Anmeldedatum dieser Anmeldung bekannt geworden sind.</p> <p>_____ Anmeldenummer/App'n SN Anmeldedatum/App'n Date</p> <p><u>09/</u> _____ Anmeldenummer/App'n SN Anmeldedatum/App'n Date</p>	<p>I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120, of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject-matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application</p> <p>_____ Status (patented, pending, or abandoned) (patentiert, anhängig, oder aufgegeben)</p> <p>_____ Status (patented, pending, or abandoned) (patentiert, anhängig, oder aufgegeben)</p>
<p>Ich erkläre hiermit, dass alle von mir in der vorliegenden Erklärung gemachten Angaben nach meinem besten Wissen und Glauben der vollen Wahrheit entsprechen, and dass ich diese eidestattliche Erklärung in Kenntnis dessen abgebe, dass wissentlich und vorsätzlich falsche Angaben gemäss Absatz 18, § 1001, der Bundesgesetze der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika mit Geldstrafe belegt und/oder Gefängnis bestraft werden können, und dass derart wissentlich und vorsätzlich falsche Angaben die Gültigkeit der vorliegenden Patentanmeldung oder eines darauf erteilten Patentes gefährden können.</p>	<p>I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and, further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like, so made, are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.</p>

FOOTNOTES

DECLARATION & POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION
ERKLÄRUNG FÜR PATENTANMELDUNG, MIT VOLLMACHT

GERMAN-LANGUAGE DECLARATION

VERTRETUNGSVOLLMACHT: Als benannter Erfinder beauftrage ich hiermit die nachstehend benannten Patentanwälte und Patentagenten mit der Verfolgung der vorliegenden Patentanmeldung sowie mit der Abwicklung aller damit verbundenen Geschäfte vor dem Patent- und Warenzeichenamt:

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